



**ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
MEETING AGENDA**

Monday, January 9, 2023 @ 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting on Zoom Platform

To join meeting or give public input, see instructions on page 2.

- I. Opening (Gardiner, 1 min)
- II. Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2022 (all, 2 min)
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (all, 2 min)
- IV. Public Input (10 min) - *See page 2 for instructions.*
- V. Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley, Kendyl Berkowitz, Acting Executive Director (25 min)
- VI. Standing Reports (25 min)
 - a. APCR Liaison (Bachman)
 - b. City Council Liaison (TBD)
 - c. Education Report (Mettler)
 - d. Senior Services Superintendent Report (Glatt)
- VII. Items from ASAC Members or Work Groups (20 min)
 - a. Livable Ashland Alliance update (Theis/Bellegia)
 - b. Other items from ASAC members? (All)
- VIII. Next Meeting: Monday, March 13, 3:30-5:00pm, on Zoom (5 min)
- IX. Adjournment – 5:00pm

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

TO ATTEND THE MEETING:

If you wish to virtually attend an Ashland Senior Advisory Committee meeting, send an email to isleen.glatt@ashland.or.us, no later than by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Please provide the following information, then staff will send you the link and/or phone codes:

- 1) Write "ASAC Participation Request" in the subject line of the email.
- 2) Include your name.
- 3) Specify the date of the meeting you wish to virtually attend or listen to.
- 4) Specify whether you will be participating by computer or telephone.
- 5) Provide the name you will use if participating by computer, or the telephone number you will use if participating by telephone.

TO GIVE PUBLIC INPUT IN THE MEETING:

If you would like to give public input for the meeting, please submit your written comments or a request to speak to isleen.glatt@ashland.or.us, no later than by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Please include the information above plus the topic you would like to speak on. For oral comments, you will be invited to unmute and speak during the Public Input portion of the agenda.

City of Ashland
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2022

Committee Members Present:

- Anne Bellegia
- Cori Frank
- Debra Johnson, Vice Chair
- Jim Bachman
- Kathy McNeal
- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Sandy Theis
- Noriko Toyokawa

Staff Present:

- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

Committee Members Absent:

- Stef Seffinger

CALL TO ORDER

Gardiner called the meeting to order at 3:31pm.

OPENING

Citizen guests: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Bachman/McNeal m/s to approve the minutes from September 12, 2022, with correction of noting Sandy Theis as present. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

LIVABLE ASHLAND ALLIANCE PROGRESS REPORT (AARP ALL-AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE)

Theis and Bellegia, Co-Chairs of the Livable Ashland Alliance Steering Committee, presented on the group's history, goals, process and progress made in the City of Ashland joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (NAFSC). See [presentation slides](#). They noted that progress was slowed by the pandemic but is back on track.

Theis and Bellegia added the following information during a question-and-answer period:

- *Does the City need to initiate the process to acquire an updated National Community Survey (NCS)?*
The City would need to buy into the next NCS for our area. The Livable Ashland Alliance Steering Committee has presented their goals and progress to the City Council but needs to follow up to get their commitment to purchase the survey. Such follow-up will be aimed at the new incoming City Council. Fiscal sponsorship for the Alliance would also help by hiring staffing to drive this process, in addition to other administrative work. Previously purchased NCS are can be viewed [online](#).
- *What does “underrepresented” groups mean [in the NCS] and what role does the Livable Ashland Alliance play in addressing a deficit in representation of such groups?*
Race and ethnicity are included in the NCS report, but due to very small numbers of participants in

some categories, the results are weighted proportionally. No persons identifying as African American answered the most recent survey the City purchased. Focus groups would be a better way to capture more nuanced demographic data from smaller subgroups, such as some ages, races, and other identities.

- *How do Livable Ashland Alliance Steering Committee members add value and their input to work towards the Domains of Livability? Would Ashland Newcomers be a relevant addition to the Committee at this time?*

The group is intentionally small at this time to remain nimble and focused on organizations with an intergenerational focus and ability to implement initiatives. When work has progressed to the point where larger Livable Ashland Alliance meetings are appropriate, other organizations and individuals will be welcome to participate.

PROGRESS REPORT ON SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION GOALS

Glatt referred to the *Senior Services Division Progress Report on Goals* included in meeting packet and the [slideshow](#). This appreciated the large view of progress made possible by this review of the last two years. Bellegia praised how much progress has been made on the original proposals of the 2017-18 Ad Hoc Senior Program Advisory Committee.

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Liaison

Commissioner Bachman gave the following updates:

- Ballot measure 15-210 (Amend City Charter) and 15-211 (Amend Food & Beverage Tax) were both defeated.
- APRC is resuming in-person business meetings in December at Council Chambers.
- New budget discussions with the City are beginning; he will update at a later meeting.
- Commission position 4 will be determined after votes are tabulated. There were only write-in candidates for this position. Bachman, Eldridge, Landt and Lewis will continue to serve in their current positions.

b. City Council Liaison

Councilor Seffinger was absent.

c. Education Report

Mettler announced that SSD has compiled a full roster of activities and monthly events for the Winter/Spring 2023 season (January-April 2023). She will be at the JCLS Community Table on 1/7/23 to represent SSD to the public.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

Glatt and Gardiner acknowledged Seffinger's tremendous contributions to ASAC and City as a whole. Seffinger served 3 years as APRC Commissioner and 8 as Ashland City Councilor and was a founding member of ASAC. Members suggested sending a letter from all ASAC members to thank Seffinger for her service. Her current Council term ends at the end of 2022, and she will be replaced on ASAC by a new liaison appointee from the City Council. Glatt will draft the letter.

Next meeting – Monday, January 9, 2023, 3:30-5:00pm (Zoom)

Adjournment – 4:54pm

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Mettler, Senior & Adult Services Coordinator, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Landt
Leslie Eldridge
Jim Lewis
Jim Bachman
Justin Adams



Michael A. Black, AICP
Director

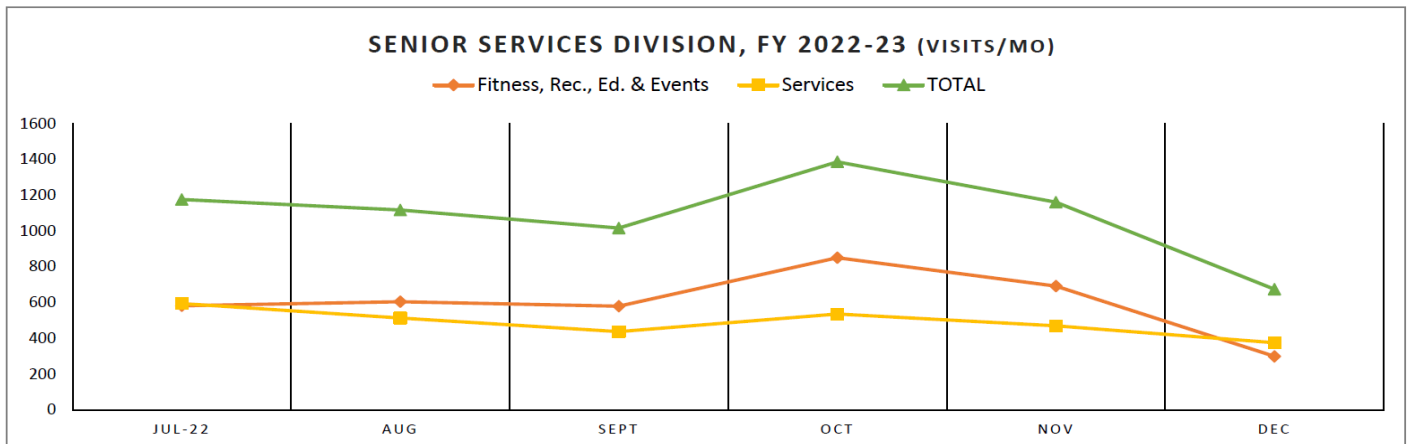
541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASAC)
FROM: Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent
DATE: January 4, 2023
SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report to ASAC

PROGRAMMING & SERVICES

- **Service Statistics** dipped in December when yoga, tai chi, line dance, and walking instructors took time off for the holidays. Total visits averaged 1088 per month for the first six months of the fiscal year, but the average will likely rise in the second half of the year.



- **Firefighters Thanksgiving:** Over 100 people attended the Firefighters Thanksgiving Dinner. ASAC members helped with drinks and logistics while the Ashland Firefighters Union served a delicious meal. Volunteer Bob Palermini took great photos, and the Mail Tribune published a positive [article](#). View more photos on our [Facebook post](#).



- Holiday Party:** The party on December 21 was a great success, with 65 people attending. Our sponsor Village at Valley View provided fabulous refreshments. Students from the OLLI French Caroling class performed carols in French and led some group singing in English. Rotary Club of Ashland gifted participants with \$20 grocery gift cards donated in partnership with Shop N Kart. And our great crew of volunteers and ASAC members ran the show. See photos below and more on [Facebook](#).



- New Activities:** Instructors are adding several new classes in January, and other programs are continuing with new variations. See AshlandSeniorServices.org for program details.
 - Monday Gentle Yoga – To increase access, Cheri Theobald will teach a new in person class to supplement the Wednesday classes.
 - Introductory Tai Chi – Char Hersh will teach Tai Chi basics to help new students prepare for the ongoing beginning level class.
 - Dancing the Oldies – Broadway Dance for Boomers instructor Audrey Flint is introducing a new dance class to music of the '60s, '70s, and '80s.
 - Go Game Group – A group that took an OLLI class on the ancient game of Go asked us to host an ongoing game group open to all seniors. The meetings started in December and will continue in 2023 on the first and third Thursdays at 1:15pm, sharing the space with our Spades and Mah Jongg groups.
 - Senior Walkabouts (*formerly Senior Walking Group*) – This popular activity resumes in February, this time based at Garfield Park. Lead by volunteer Rosalie Rybka.
 - Dancing with Parkinson's – Megan Walker Straight will teach a new class at the Grove for people living with Parkinson's.
- Education:** Coordinator Mettler has created a full line up of education programs for January-April, with more pending:
 - JCLS Technology Basics - 2nd Wednesday of each month, with four topics rotating

- Health and Wellbeing for Older Adults, January 18
- AARP Smart Driver Course, January 25-26 and April 19-20 (repeats quarterly)
- Quirky Ashland History with historian Peter Finkle, February 22
- AARP Smart DriverTek, March 15
- Ashland Japanese Garden: Guided Walk for Seniors & Friends with APRC Director Michael Black, April 5
- **Seniors Celebrating Creativity:** This senior art exhibit at Ashland Senior Center started in 2019, but it was cancelled due to the pandemic. The program resumes in 2023, starting with the colorful paintings of Merike Wallace exhibited in the dining room during January 9 – March 31. Interested local artists age 50+ should contact Isleen Glatt at 541-488-5342.

VULNERABLE SENIORS

- **RVTD TouchPass:** One of our bus pass patrons alerted us that their TouchPass was not working, even though we had just refilled it the week before. Working with RVTD, we were able to track down a glitch in their process which had caused a subset of cards to expire. To ensure that vulnerable seniors would not be stranded without transportation, we mobilized quickly on a solution. Our office volunteers looked up all 100 participants to identify which patrons had the bad cards, then staff were able to promptly mail out replacement cards reloaded with their ride balance

PARTNERSHIPS

- **AARP:** Our partnership with AARP continues to be strong. They have added a special DriverTek class in addition to the Smart Driver course they teach quarterly at Ashland Senior Center.
- **JCLS:** In addition to our ongoing Technology Basics class, the Ashland Adult Services staff of JCLS have asked to hold additional programs at Ashland Senior Center while the Ashland library undergoes some HVAC work during March-April 2023. We are still working out the details.

ADVOCACY

- City of Ashland's year-round utility discount for seniors and people with disabilities uses an extremely low-income bar, much lower than even Medicaid's qualification. That excludes many very low-income seniors in need of utility assistance. Senior Services staff are advocating with City staff to increase the income limit as part of the 2023-2025 biennium budget, and we will ask for ASAC support if needed at a later date.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- The Firefighters Thanksgiving Dinner received positive [coverage](#).
- Superintendent Glatt was quoted in a recent [Mail Tribune article](#) regarding SOU's plan to build senior housing on the campus.
- The [December Senior News](#) focused on holiday events and some community resources and events. The [January](#) issue highlighted the many new programs starting in January.

BUDGET/FACILITIES

- **Acoustic Panels:** In mid December the Parks staff installed acoustic panels in the Activity Room to dampen reverberation during classes and events where multiple people are talking at once. It was just in time for the holiday party participants to enjoy pleasant conversation in both rooms. The same product was installed in the Dining Room in 2019 and made a huge difference for the lunch program and events. The panels were paid for by prior donations to the Ashland Senior Center fund of Ashland Parks Foundation.



- A volunteer with the Outer Parks crew refurbished the long



bench in front of the senior center with new, varnished wood and a coat of paint on the metal frame. It is a popular spot for seniors to sit when coming and going from the Senior Center or when walking around the park, and we have heard many compliments since the restoration.

PERSONNEL

- Shannon Holt was hired as a full-time Office Assistant II for APRC. 25% of her time supports the Senior Services Division. She is stationed at The Grove and assists with senior programs there, registrations in person and by phone, and vacation coverage at the Senior Services Division office. Shannon and our cadre of volunteers helped cover Coordinator Mettler's time off during November 28-December 26.

PATRON FEEDBACK

- "Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving dinner. Many thanks to you and the Firefighters."
- "Thank you for the great time at the holiday party. I enjoyed meeting new people and had some great conversations. Also, I enjoy the monthly newsletters. Keep them coming!"
- "Thank you again for a wonderful holiday party. I have so few opportunities to go out. It really meant a lot to me."