



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

Monday, May 8, 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 – March 13, 2023 (all, 2 min)
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (all, 2 min)
- IV. Public Input (5 min) - *See page 2 for instructions.*
- V. Disaster preparedness for older adults & caregivers – Lauren Kraemer, MPH, Associate Professor of Practice, OSU Extension Family & Community Health (45 minutes)
- VI. Elect officers, discuss member terms & recruitment for positions opening July 1 (Gardiner/Glatt, 5-10 min)
- VII. Standing Reports (20 min)
 - a. APRC Liaison (Bachman)
 - b. City Council Liaison (Kaplan)
 - c. Education Report (Mettler)
 - d. Senior Services Superintendent Report (Glatt)
- VIII. Items from ASAC Members or Work Groups (10 min)
 - a. Update on May ballot measure 15-214 (Gardiner)
 - b. Livable Ashland Alliance update (Theis/Bellegia)
 - c. Other items from ASAC members? (All)
- IX. Next Meeting: Monday, July 10, 3:30-5:00pm, on Zoom
- X. 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
March 13, 2023

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

- Jim Bachman

Staff Present:

- Michael Black
- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING

Gardiner welcomed Bob Kaplan as the new City Council Liaison to ASAC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Theis/Johnson m/s to approve the minutes from January 9, 2022. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: SUPPORT FOR VERY LOW-INCOME SENIORS IN ASHLAND

John Engelhardt, President of the St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Ashland chapter, presented on the financial assistance and navigation help they provide for very low-income community members. See [presentation documents](#).

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

- *How does SVdP help clients access the City's utility discounts?*
Volunteers have helped people get signed up for the senior/disabled discount and Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP), offering different levels of assistance depending on client ability. Engelhardt asked if the City might be able to take initiative in identifying residents in need and create a program in which residents could opt in or out of utility discounts.
- *What are SVdP's funding sources?*
60-70% of funds come from the agency's thrift store in Medford, 25% from grants and the rest from donations and contributions from parishioners.
- *Does SVdP Ashland have a physical office?*
They have a small space where volunteers operate their phone line, usually Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. They handle between 60-80 cases/month, or 3-4 daily.
- *Does SVdP collaborate with the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) in connecting to services such as Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives (PEARLS)?*

SVdP Ashland mostly works with Options for Helping Residents of Ashland (OHRA). SVdP Medford might have more connections with RVCOG. They are trying to connect more with ACCESS. Toyokawa invited SVdP to discuss options to serve clients with SOU students who are getting trained as interns in PEARLS.

- *Are clients vetted prior to receiving help with rental deposits to ensure they are able to cover their future rent? If their circumstances change, can they receive rental assistance? How does SVdP follow up with clients, especially those who get help with rental deposits, to check they are staying housed?*

Yes, regarding vetting and subsequent rental assistance if needed. SVdP has national database software developed specifically for the agency, and SVdP Ashland joined in October 2021. This has been a great tool in tracking client histories. SVdP tries to limit help to clients to once per year, but clients may receive help more than once if for small amounts of money.

- *How does SVdP work with Ashland Senior Services Division (ASSD) staff?*
ASSD staff often refer clients to SVdP. SVdP have consulted with ASSD staff on more complex client cases for guidance with navigation and available resources. Mettler thanked SVdP for their service, quick response time and good follow-through. Engelhardt added that they try to do same-day service for clients.
- *Does SVdP provide mental health services?*
No, they refer clients to other agencies that provide such services.
- *Where do SVdP volunteers come from?*
Most are from the Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic parish. There is no requirement to be Catholic to volunteer, and there are several volunteers from other sources.

BUDGET LISTENING SESSION AND PROGRESS REPORT

APRC Director Black reported that, generally, the ASSD budget for the upcoming biennium is staying level. The original budget for the current biennium funded 2.75 staff but was amended to 2 staff due to cuts in 2022; staffing will continue at 2.0 FTE for Biennium 2023-2025. Funding for materials and services will increase 3-5% for inflation. A new roof for Ashland Senior Center will come out of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds.

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

- *What percentage of the total APCR budget funds ASSD?*
About 5% of the total budget; around \$390,000/year.
- *Cutting back on 0.75 staff positions for ASSD impacts the hours that Ashland Senior Center can stay open. What can be done to make ASSD services more available to constituents, such as funding more staff?*
Historically, APCR received the equivalent of \$2.09/\$1000 of assessed property value through a levy. Measure 50, passed in the 1990s, changed that funding to come through the City's General Fund. For the past four years, that funding has been reduced to \$1.89/\$1000. To maintain the current status quo with staffing, APCR is having to expand their budget by \$800,000 due to projected increases like Cost of Living Adjustments, so are now requesting \$2.00/\$1000. There is no funding to bring back eliminated office assistant positions this biennium, such as the 0.75 at ASSD.
- *To address the concern about the high proportion of Ashland citizens in the older adult category, appropriate staffing could mitigate the unmet need of providing navigation to social services. Filling in with volunteers for staff roles is not what ASSD should be doing. How can ASAC advocate to the City to recognize this important need and address it with sensitivity, avoiding putting APCR in a position where they can't adequately meet community need?*
Having a City Council liaison on ASAC provides such education. Kaplan added that sharing this information via public testimony, and backing it up with data, would be effective. ASAC members could do this at the upcoming Citizen Budget Committee meetings during April-May and to the City Council when they receive the budget recommendations in June. To expand these critical services for seniors, the

Council would have to balance competing needs. Bellegia added that older adults also benefit from all-age services such as green spaces and outdoor recreation opportunities, and ASSD should not be competing with other APRC projects for funding. This isn't just a senior issue, because working adults have to care for aging parents. As the growing older adult demographic grows older and more vulnerable, we are already seeing more unhoused seniors due to lack of access to services.

- *Can APRC generate additional revenue with events such as pickleball tournaments, and earmark those funds for senior programs?*

APRC continues to be conservative with predicting recreation revenue, as it has still not improved to 2019 levels. Black is open is looking at innovative revenue sources such as tournaments. Additional funding is necessary to add more employees. APRC has drafted a budget for the upcoming biennium that they believe will be acceptable to the City Council and within the means of the General Fund. In addition to funding from the City, APRC also receives income from recreation revenue, grants and contracts.

- *How can the measure on the May ballot dedicating Food & Beverage Tax to the APRC budget help?*
If passed, this ballot measure would help ensure sustainable funding for APRC. It wouldn't cover all needs but provide a critical "floor." ASAC members can help by advocating to citizens to support the ballot measure. The Food & Beverage Tax is currently designated for capital expenses for either APRC or the Streets Division (Public Works). Shifting more APRC funding to Food & Beverage Tax would only affect the source of budget funding, not amount; less funding would come out of the General Fund. Kaplan added that the City has typically predicted Food & Beverage Tax revenue conservatively so resources could accumulate in the ending fund balance towards the next biennium. Black noted that this potential carry-forward balance is one of the arguments for APRC to keep its Parks Fund at the end of each fiscal year.

STANDING REPORTS

- a. **APRC Liaison** - Commissioner Bachman was absent.

- b. City Council Liaison**

Councilor Kaplan reported about changes to the City Council: former Councilor Graham is the new Mayor and two new Councilors are planned to be announced at the March 15 Council meeting. The January 30 town hall was a great success, with over 300 attendees and over 150 community members participating in dot-voting via the City website. Senior programming received 90 votes, in comparison with parks & open space (450), wildfire risk reduction (350), affordable housing (250) and economic diversification (250). Bellegia noted that 90 votes for senior programming is not necessarily representative as it's hard for the average resident to understand these different "buckets;" votes for parks & open space might be meant for senior programming, since both are under the umbrella of APRC. McNeal noted that she has lived here since 2007 and doesn't remember a town hall meeting in the past; she asked if the Council plans to hold these at least annually, preferably more often. Kaplan agreed he would like to hold town halls more frequently, at least annually, but noted the burden on staff. These events are valuable to rebuild the social fabric of civic participation that has become frayed due to social isolation. Kaplan mentioned the Council hosted an economic roundtable last Monday with representatives from major economic players including OSF, SOU, Asante Ashland Community Hospital, the Ashland School District and the Chamber of Commerce. All shared trends that their institution is facing. There have been five Council Business meetings since the last ASAC meeting, primarily addressing land use measures, but also the Food & Beverage Tax ballot measure. Five new members have been appointed to the Citizen Budget Committee, including Gardiner. Gardiner asked if the March 15 Council meeting will address City priorities; Kaplan replied that such a presentation from the City Manager is expected.

- c. Education Report**

Mettler shared about planned educational and social events for the upcoming summer season: Smokewise education with Ashland Fire & Rescue (May 31), Disaster Preparedness for Seniors (June 28), Sue DeMarinis

Author Talk (July 26); Cookout with Ashland Police Department (June 10), Britt Concert Fieldtrip (June 29), Ice Cream Social (August 9). She also reported deepening collaboration with Jackson County Library Services to provide digital technology education and about Frank's new initiative to provide tutoring on using supermarket coupon smartphone apps.

d. Senior Services Superintendent Report

Glatt referred to her report in the agenda package. She added that, with support from Bellegia and Black, she just submitted an application for an AARP Community Challenge Grant to fund a demonstration project of conversation cluster outdoor seating. If funded, there will be three sites modeling different styles of seating, in Lithia, Garfield, and Glenwood parks. Once this model for facilitating outdoor socializing has been tested, HoAs may choose to implement as well, meeting Livable Ashland Alliance goals for Outdoor Spaces and Social Participation, which benefit all age groups.

Glatt also noted that Theis and McNeal are both nearing the end of their terms. Theis has completed the two terms allowed by the bylaws; McNeal has not yet decided whether to renew. Glatt invited ASAC members to think about potential recruits for new members.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

a. Intergenerational Dialogue in SOU Psychology of Aging Class

Toyokawa reported on the intergenerational discussion about the meaning of romantic relationships in later life that she facilitated between older adult community guests and SOU psychology students last month. Both community participants and students gave positive feedback. Students saw unexpected commonalities with their elders and were struck by the latter's "wisdom" and "intelligence," which seemed to counter previous stereotypes. Prior class exercises had revealed student perceptions of elders as marginal and a lack of knowledge about stages of adulthood. Toyokawa noticed students are now seeking mentors among such elders, as the cultural expectation of independence makes it difficult for youth to share challenges with parents. She hopes to facilitate more intergenerational discussions and events at SOU and invited ASAC members to submit ideas.

b. Livable Ashland Alliance update

Theis reported that Livable Ashland is in talks with the Ashland Community Health Foundation as a potential fiscal sponsor. Bellegia noted that the increasing collaboration across Livable Ashland Alliance member organizations is mirrored in collaboration among ASAC members, such as Johnson attending Toyokawa's intergenerational SOU class discussions. She remarked that such successful collaborations inspire other groups to engage similarly. She added that having a fiscal sponsor would facilitate creating a website where all area groups working on livability projects can share and collaborate, further supporting such efforts.

c. Other items from ASAC members

Frank shared progress on her initiative to tutor seniors on using supermarket coupon smartphone apps, which can significantly help stretch budgets. She has recruited three more volunteers, and all will receive training from a SOU business major student who works part-time at Albertson's. They plan to start offering tutoring in May at Ashland Senior Center.

Next meeting – Monday, May 8, 2023, 3:30-5:00pm (Zoom)

Adjournment – 5:01pm

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



Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

Ashland Senior Advisory Committee

Positions and Terms as of 3/1/2023

Position	Name	Representing	Date appointed	Current Term Expires
1.	Jim Bachman	APRC Liaison	4/13/2022	N/A
2.	Anne Bellegia	Community Partner & Program Participant	7/23/2018	June 2024
3.	Cori Frank	Community Partner & Program Participant	9/28/2021	June 2025
4.	Mike Gardiner	Community Partner	2/9/2022	June 2025
5.	Bob Kaplan	City Council Liaison	1/17/23	N/A
6.	Kathy McNeal	Program Participant	1/11/2021	June 2023
7.	Debra Johnson	Community Partner & Program Participant	5/3/2021	June 2024
8.	Saundra Theis	Community Partner & Program Participant	04/23/2018	June 2023
9.	Noriko Toyokawa	Community Partner	7/1/2022	June 2025

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

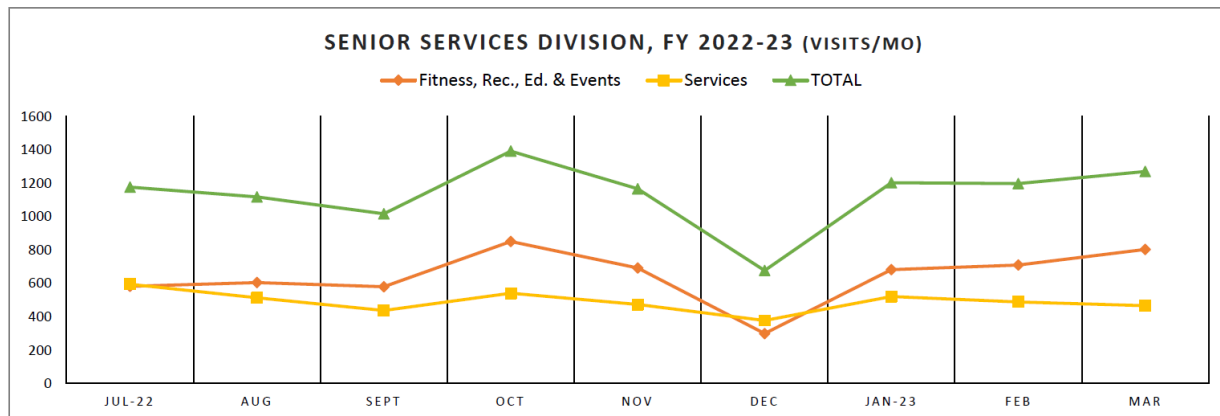
541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASAC)
FROM: Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent
DATE: May 3, 2023
SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report to ASAC

PROGRAMMING & SERVICES

- **Service Statistics:** Visits per month climbed to 1269 in March, with an average of 1134 per month year to date. A full slate of summer activities and events was announced in the [Summer PlayGuide](#) that was mailed to all Ashland homes in April.



- **Education/Presentations:**

- Our partner AARP Smart Driver added a new DriverTEK class in March. The course explains the many helpful safety features on new vehicles that can help older drivers. In April, AARP volunteer Jim Nagel taught the 6-hour Smart Driver curriculum that helps seniors get a discount on their insurance. The Division hosts the latter program once per quarter.
- Our partner Jackson County Library Services offered three special programs at Ashland Senior Center during March-April while the Ashland branch was closed for HVAC work. Programs included two crafts and one storytelling.

- Director Black led a Japanese Garden tour for seniors on April 5. Because this popular event was fully enrolled well in advance, Coordinator Mettler scheduled a second tour with volunteer Patty Winner on April 26, which also filled.



- **Seniors Celebrating Creativity:** The beautiful watercolors of Priscila “Cill” Franco are currently on display in Ashland Senior Center dining room, April-June. We are seeking more local artists age 50+ to exhibit! Interested artists should contact 541-488-5342 or seniorinfo@ashland.or.us.



VULNERABLE SENIORS

- **Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist:** Specialist Jennine Greenwell at Jackson County Mental Health is now filling a critical gap in care coordination for vulnerable older adults with dementia, mental illness, or addiction. These are often seniors who are beginning to fail at home but have no local family members to help manage care. Unlike other local services currently, Greenwell can make home visits. She assesses needs and coordinates with multiple agencies to ensure appropriate care or placement. We have recently referred three different seniors, including an elder whom Mayor Graham and Ashland Fire and Rescue staff were trying to assist. Greenwell also provides community education for older adults. At Ashland Senior Center, she presented on mental wellness in January and will teach an 8 -week workshop for self-management of depression in August.
- **Outreach Calls:** Volunteer Kathy McNeal continues to make quarterly outreach calls to check in with our most vulnerable patrons.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Ashland Chamber of Commerce:** In collaboration with Sonali and Company Realtors, the Division hosted Chamber Greeters at Ashland Senior Center on April 7, introducing some community business owners to the resources of Senior Services Division for the first time.

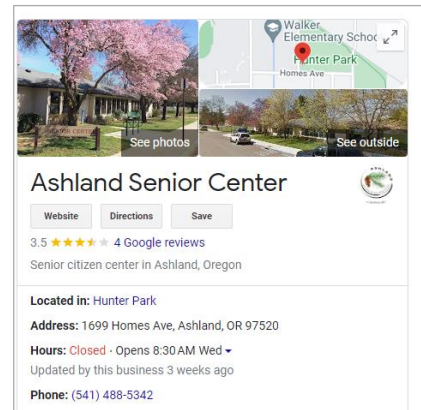
- **OHSU:** The Senior Services Division is hosting two OHSU nursing students for their spring term practicum. The students are doing a needs assessment of local seniors about current access to the internet, needs and barriers.

ADVOCACY

- In February, Glatt submitted a recommendation to City of Ashland Administration suggesting that the income qualification for the City’s Senior & Disabled Utility discount be raised to 138% to 150% of Federal Poverty Levels (FPL), as for Medicaid, to allow more very low-income seniors to qualify. I have witnessed that many seniors who are really struggling financially do not qualify at the current income level of 100-125% FPL (\$1215-\$1519 per month), probably due to the high rents in Oregon. There is no word yet whether the proposal will be accepted in the budget process.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **Google Business:** After attending a Travel Medford training on claiming a Google Business listing, Glatt succeeded in claiming and building out the [listing for Ashland Senior Center](#) to reflect our organization more accurately.
- **Access Senior Fair:** Staff were not able to be at the Access Senior Fair in Medford on April 4 due to two other programs that day. However, we arranged to have our brochures out on a shared information table and heard back that all the brochures were taken by consumers.
- **Senior News:** The April and May [Senior News](#) issues featured new and ongoing programs and offered helpful community information such as emergency preparedness, anti-scam tips, and the free OLLI community lecture series.



BUDGET/FACILITIES

- **AARP Community Challenge Grant:** Staff submitted an AARP Community Challenge grant application, this time to fund a demonstration project of “conversation clusters” seating to facilitate conversation and connection outdoors in a COVID-safe way. Grant awards will be announced in mid May.
- **Client Database:** The Division continues to build the new client database that was launched in early 2022. In March, staff and volunteers merged the e-newsletter list into the database, enabling for the first time an unduplicated count of active clients, now over 1100. (Additional seniors not in the database are served daily with brief information and referral contacts.)

STAFF TRAINING

- Mettler attended a 4-hour ALICE training (active shooter citizen/employee response classes) hosted by the City of Ashland and SOU. Glatt attended an 8-hour training on DEI for City staff who have direct contact with the public and a webinar on advancing “Equity in Aging through Policy: Barriers and Opportunities.”

