



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

**Monday, November 13, 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 – September 11, 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. RVCOG Senior & Disability Services - Connie Wilkerson, Director (30 minutes)
- VI. Conversation Clusters Project (Glatt, 10 minutes)
- VII. Standing Reports (25 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 (15 min)
  - a. Livable Ashland Alliance update (Bellegia)
  - b. Other items from ASAC members? (All)
- IX. Next Meeting: Monday, January 8, 3:30-5:00pm via Zoom  
Meeting Calendar for 2024, adjusted date for November due to Veteran's Day holiday
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
September 11, 2023

Committee Members Present:

- Jim Bachman
- Anne Bellegia
- John Engelhardt
- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Debra Johnson, Vice Chair
- Bob Kaplan
- Noriko Toyokawa
- Patty Winner

Committee Members Absent:

- Cori Frank

Staff Present:

- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

**CALL TO ORDER**

Gardiner called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

**OPENING**

No guests.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Engelhardt/Bellegia m/s to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

None.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOUSING, RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE (OHRA)**

Dennis Slattery, OHRA Board President, and Cass Sinclair, OHRA Executive Director, presented on OHRA's new shelter, current services and older adults served. Slattery reported that OHRA has expanded to serving all of Jackson County, and their name now stands for Opportunities for Housing, Resources and Assistance. They run the year-round OHRA Shelter and Resource Center with the goal of taking people from crisis to stability. They offer a housing-first model of assistance. The OHRA Resource Center is the only no barrier walk-in resource center in Southern Oregon. Their current annual budget is \$2.5 million, including over 30 grants, an increase from a few years ago when they operated a 5-month winter shelter and resource center on an annual budget of \$200,000. Their goal is to grow operations, but fundraising is challenging, especially to cover Resource Center ongoing operations, for which applicable grants are scarce.

OHRA opened its current facility in April 2021, offering a 52-room low-barrier shelter where guests can stay for up to six months and the Resource Center which is open Monday-Friday 9am-2pm. They have ten bilingual, bicultural Resource Navigators on staff. They offer a shower trailer and laundry services on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They partner with many other local agencies, some of which offer some services onsite, including: OHSU nursing program (street nurses), La Clinica (on-site mini federally-qualified health center offering mental

and medical health services), Department of Human Services, Consumer Credit Counseling and Addictions Recovery Center. During April 2021-June 2023, OHRA helped 387 families into new housing and 432 families avoid eviction. They currently have a state rapid re-housing grant through January 10, 2023, and are prioritizing spending those funds to ensure housing stability for more clients. Older adults are the fastest growing segment of the housing-challenged community and usually about a quarter of their shelter rooms are occupied by guests over age 65, which has resulted in an increased need for mobility devices and ADA-accessible rooms.

The following was covered in discussion:

- If there is no space at the OHRA shelter, unhoused people are referred to other services including other shelters. There is currently about a 1.5-year waitlist to get a Section 8 Housing voucher. OHRA now has about 100 people on their waitlist; Rogue Retreat has around 200 people on theirs.
- Priority for space in the shelter is determined via a federal continuum of care tracking system into which OHRA staff add information from guest intake assessment. This system scores individuals based on their vulnerability and other demographic factors, such as age and disability. Those with the highest scores get shelter priority. OHRA does not screen for mental health. Guests are aware of the scoring system.
- OHRA Resource Navigators focus on building relationships with guests to maximize their ability to help. This may mitigate the reluctance of some older adults facing housing challenges for the first time in their lives, and who are unfamiliar with navigating the social service landscape or feel shame at asking for help. Homelessness is a multi-layered issue requiring a multi-layered approach to accommodate diverse needs.
- Ashland Senior Services Division does extensive resource referrals but does not have enough staff to do much navigation assistance; staff frequently refer people to the OHRA Resource Center. OHRA provides navigation assistance but not case management; case management is very limited in Jackson County.
- OHRA has plans to branch out into outreach navigation services. Resource Navigators are trained by more senior staff. OHRA Resource Navigators are not mandatory reporters for Adult Protective Services.
- During an appointment with a Resource Navigator, a client may request specific assistance, or the Navigator can identify need(s) with a checklist. Vulnerability assessment is only done for potential shelter guests.

## **STANDING REPORTS**

### **a. APRC Liaison**

Commissioner Bachman reported that APRC is currently focused on personnel issues, onboarding former Commissioner Leslie Eldridge as new Interim Director and hiring a Parks Superintendent and Executive Assistant. Engelhardt asked if the Grove will again become available for the AARP Tax-Aide program, now that Ashland Utility Billing has offices in the Otte Pederson Room. Bachman clarified that APRC and the City are currently in discussion of how to share the Grove. The Grove gym will remain available for APRC programs.

### **b. City Council Liaison**

Councilor Kaplan shared that the Council approved the purchase of the office building at 2200 Ashland Street to serve as an emergency shelter, with funding from the Governor's Executive Order regarding the state's housing and homelessness crisis. The City will partner with OHRA to run the shelter. Plans for the building

also include housing the City's Emergency Operations Center. Council is currently speaking to residents in the area of the planned emergency shelter and will also hold a community meeting for residents to give input.

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

- *Does this mean that, in the long-term, Pioneer Hall and the Grove will no longer be tapped to serve as emergency shelters?*  
Not necessarily. The 2200 Ashland Street facility will be able to house 30 people in a congregate setting, per funding requirements, but the current camping area behind the Police Station will be maintained.
- *Will the shelter just be for extreme weather and smoke?*  
No. Per the Governor's Executive Order, the shelter will house people with the goal of moving them into permanent housing, with the assumption that continuing supportive services will be available in permanent housing.
- *What happens if there is extreme weather but the shelter is already at capacity?*  
Per discussion with Linda Reid, City Housing Program Specialist, the City might revert to the model of appealing for community help to help shelter those in need. Glatt added that some local churches have shared that they are struggling to find volunteers because their congregations are needing a break from this ongoing need.

#### **c. Education Report**

Mettler pointed to new fall season programs and presentations in Glatt's Superintendent report in the agenda package. She added that the recent collaboration with the Guitar Society of Southern Oregon attracted a large audience, a trend that echoes the record participation at the summer's Ice Cream Social. She also invited ASAC members to volunteer at the upcoming ASSD vaccination clinics.

#### **d. Senior Services Superintendent Report**

Glatt highlighted the following in her Superintendent's report: Out of several initiatives she has pursued, two are successfully underway: COVID-19 and influenza vaccine clinics in October for Ashland older adults and their caregivers and a Conversation Clusters seating pilot in three parks around Ashland. Initial explorations for two other projects, a senior job fair and a digital access project that sought to install hot spots in low-income senior housing, revealed that they were not viable at this time.

### **ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS**

#### **a. Update on Age-Friendly University application**

Toyokawa announced that SOU has been admitted to the Age-Friendly University Network, making it the third university in Oregon to earn this status. She added that next steps involve addressing the need for a labor force, ideas and financial resources. She is focusing on the latter, applying for educational grants. Her long-term goal is to establish a Center for Lifespan Development, which will be focused on intergenerational programs. Other goals include hosting community lunches on the SOU campus and developing a new course to respond to community business needs. She is increasingly incorporating more intergenerational activities in her SOU classes and will share these models so her colleagues can replicate them.

#### **b. Livable Ashland Alliance update**

Bellegia reported that Ashland Community Health Foundation is interested in serving as fiscal sponsor to the Livable Ashland Alliance but has certain requirements that would change how the Alliance currently operates. The Alliance decided to pause pursuing fiscal sponsorship. They are instead focused on educating the community on their initiatives and planning to hold a stakeholder meeting to invite audiences from beyond their current Steering Committee.

**c. Other items from ASAC members**

Bellegia shared that in November OLLI is offering “Community Health and You,” a free, public lecture series featuring specialists from Asante speaking on health topics.

Johnson shared that JCLS’s upcoming Big Ideas lecture series will feature some topics of relevance to older adults.

**Next meeting** – Monday, November 13, 2023, 3:30-5:00pm (Zoom)

**Adjournment** – 4:59pm

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

DRAFT

# 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

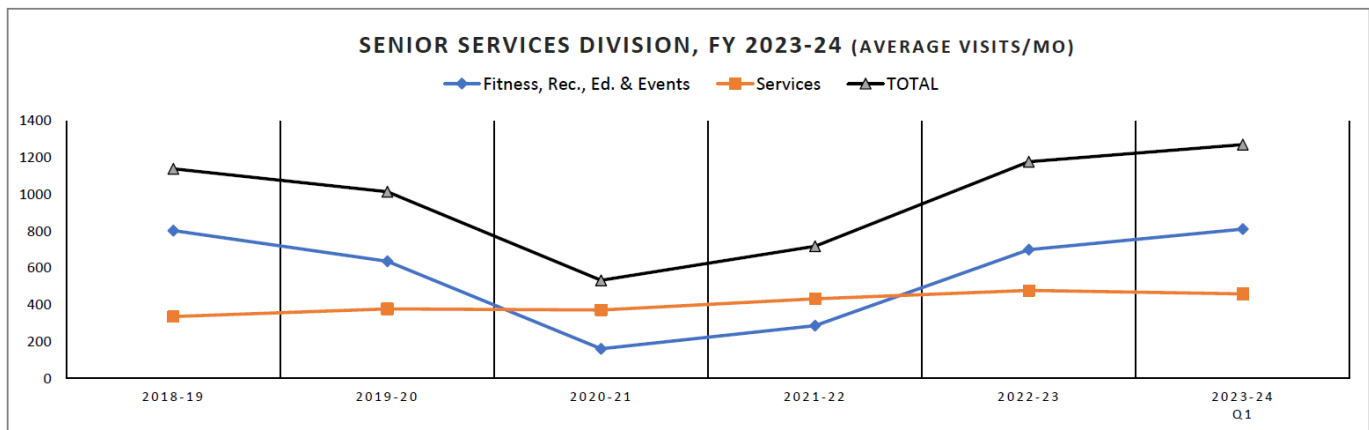
**TO:** Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASAC)  
**FROM:** Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent  
**DATE:** November 8, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Superintendent's Report to ASAC

### PROGRAMMING & SERVICES

- **Senior Vaccination Clinic:** The Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on October 13 was a great success, providing 240 shots for 160 people. Due to supply chain barriers, the clinic on October 27 provided only 160 shots, and 60 COVID vaccinations had to be rescheduled to a make-up clinic on November 6. Many thanks to our funders and the 28 volunteers required to host three clinics. Funding from the non-profit [AGE+](#) covered a \$25 grocery gift card for each registered participant and helped subsidize uninsured and underinsured participants. Additional funding from Meadows Community Foundation and Ashland Community Health Foundation allowed the clinics to be expanded to a total of 459 vaccinations for over 300 older adults.



- **Service statistics** for the first quarter of FY 2023-24 show continued very high participation. The monthly average for all visits, activities, and services is now 1270/month, higher than any year since detailed tracking began in 2018.



- **Education**

- **Social Security and Medicare Planning:** To help local older adults learn critical information, Coordinator Mettler organized a Social Security Planning presentation on September 13 and a Medicare 101 presentation on September 18, prior to Medicare’s annual open enrollment period October 15-December 7.
- **Plan4Care Presentation:** On October 11, ASAC members Anne Bellegia and Debra Johnson presented “Plan4Care: Creating Care Circles to Support One Another As We Age” at Ashland Senior Center. The topic generated a lot of interest and was well attended. We are grateful to engage local experts to empower our older adult community, allowing them to remain independent by helping each other.
- **AARP Smart Driver** class was offered October 18-19 by AARP volunteer Jim Nagel. The Senior Services Division hosts the two-day class at Ashland Senior Center once per quarter to provide access for Ashland older adults.
- **Seniors Celebrating Creativity:** Senior artist Bob Janssen is now showing a collection of his watercolors at Ashland Senior Center as part of Seniors Celebrating Creativity, a rotating exhibit of senior artists. The exhibit is in the dining room during October through December, open Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-3:30pm.





## VULNERABLE SENIORS

- Vaccination Clinic:** The clinics described previously were especially important because access to vaccines in Ashland is so limited, forcing most residents to travel to clinics and pharmacies in Medford. Traveling can be a hardship for more elderly and frail Ashland residents. Of the 300+ seniors served by our clinics, the average age of participants was 75 years, and we served some up to 100 years old.

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Conversation Clusters:** Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission, in collaboration with Livable Ashland Alliance, launched the Conversation Clusters Demonstration Project on October 31. This age-friendly livability initiative is designed to increase opportunities for conversation and connection in public spaces. Superintendent Glatt led the project, including [signage](#) and an [online survey](#) to collect community feedback. A [press release](#) generated attention from [Channel KDRV Newswatch 12](#), and a [Facebook post](#) spread the word on social media. The survey will remain open until December 17.



### Conversation Clusters Demonstration Project



**Lithia Park,**  
Lawn facing Winburn Way and Skout  
A set of 20 stacking chairs that park users may move around on the lawn



**Garfield Park,**  
East Main and California St  
A semi-circle of three fixed benches facing a view of Grizzly Peak



**Glenwood Park,**  
Glenwood Dr and Ashland St  
A circle of four fixed benches near the center of Glenwood Park

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Senior News:** The October and November [Senior News](#) issues featured the Vaccination Clinic, special education events, and the Firefighters Thanksgiving event. Resources for free fire detectors, City of Ashland emergency alerts, and the OLLI community lecture series were also included.



**Senior News October 2023**


Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue, Ashland OR 97520  
Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 3:30pm | 541-488-5342 | 1177 715  
AshlandSeniorCenter.org | seniorinfo@ashland.or.us

**Plan a Care:**  
Creating Care Clusters to Support One Another: All We Age

**Flu & COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic**  
Fridays, October 13 and 27  
Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave  
Free registration, 8:30-10:30 AM  
Most health insurance accepted with no out-of-pocket cost

**Firefighters' Union Thanksgiving**  
Monday, November 20, 3-3:30pm  
Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave  
FREE. Registration required: 541-488-5342

**AARP Smart DriverTEK Workshop**  
Wednesday, November 29, 9-3:30pm  
Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave  
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**Please, No Parking at Walker School**  
Please respect our neighbors! Do not park in the Walker Elementary School parking lot during school hours. The school lot is used for after-school activities on most school days.

**Ashland Senior Center will be closed on November 20 in observance of Veterans Day and November 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

- **Volunteer Recognition:** We are proud to announce that long-time Senior Services Volunteer and former ASAC member **Kathy McNeal** received the ORPA Volunteer Service award at the ORPA conference November 6-8. She was nominated by Volunteer Coordinator Shelton and Senior Services Coordinator Mettler.



The prestigious Oregon AARP Andrus Community Service Award was bestowed on **Anne Bellegia** at the AARP Age-Friendly Oregon Summit on October 10 in Monmouth, OR and



celebrated again at the AARP Vital Aging Conference in Medford on November 4. Bellegia was a critical member of the Ad Hoc Ashland Senior Program Advisory Committee in 2017 and is a founding member of the Ashland Senior Advisory Committee. She is an activist for aging services, planning for care, Ashland livability, and Ashland Parks and Recreation. She is also a long-time leader and instructor in OLLI. Superintendent Glatt nominated Bellegia with input from her colleagues at OLLI.

## BUDGET/FACILITIES

- **Grants:** The Senior Services Division budget was supplemented this year by a total of \$17,170 funded by AGE+, Mountain Meadows Community Foundation, and Ashland Community Health Foundation to support the vaccination clinics.
- **Donations:** The AARP Andrus Award described above includes donations by AARP to charities, \$1000 each for the awardee and the nominator to designate. Both Bellegia and Glatt have designated the Senior Services fund of the Ashland Parks Foundation. These funds will be held in the Foundation for future special needs.

## OTHER

- **Staff Changes:** Office Assistant II **Shannon Holt** started working full-time in the Senior Services Division as of November 1. In addition, on October 26 **Cheryl de Saram** joined the Division as a part-time, temporary office assistant to help with front desk hours that are not covered by our office volunteers. They are both wonderful additions to the Senior Services Division staff during an extra busy time and will help bridge some planned staffing transitions.
- **Patron Feedback:** “The Senior Center did such a great job with the vaccination clinic. The entire staff was so kind and helpful. They even had a place for us to sit and enjoy snacks after receiving the injections. I was so impressed by the Senior Center and this unexpected level of service.”



## **Ashland Senior Advisory Committee 2024 Meeting Calendar**

**Monday, January 8, 3:30-5:00pm**

**Monday, March 11, 3:30-5:00pm**

**Monday, May 13, 3:30-5:00pm**

**Monday, July 8, 3:30-5:00pm**

**Monday, September 9, 3:30-5:00pm**

**Monday, November 18\*, 3:30-5:00pm**

\*November meeting is on third Monday due to  
Veteran's Day on second Monday.

Unless otherwise indicated, the Ashland Senior Advisory Committee meets on the second Monday of odd numbered months, 3:30-5:00pm. Meetings are currently held on Zoom unless otherwise noted on the meeting agenda.

All meetings are open and have an opportunity for public input. Agendas are posted at [ashland.or.us/APRCAgendasAndMinutes](https://ashland.or.us/APRCAgendasAndMinutes) about five days in advance of each meeting and include instructions for public participation.