

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SENIOR PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S-PAC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 10, 2018

**Committee Members Present:**

- Anne Bellegia, Participant Member (Senior Services Participant, OLLI Community Outreach)
- Rob Casserly, Community Partner Member (SOU, OLLI Program Manager)
- Mike Gardiner, APRC Commissioner
- Mike Hersh, Participant Member (Senior Services Participant & Volunteer / S-PAC Vice Chair)
- Stef Seffinger, Ashland City Councilor
- Sandy Theis, Community Partner Member (RVCOG Senior Advisory Council / S-PAC Chair)

**Staff Members Present:**

- Michael Black, APRC Director
- Isleen Glatt, APRC Senior Services Superintendent
- Natalie Mettler, APRC Senior Services Assistant

**Committee Member Absent:**

- Mary Russell-Miller, Community Partner Member (SOU Faculty Member)

**I. Opening (1 minute)**

S-PAC Chair Sandy Theis called the meeting to order at 3:00pm at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave in Ashland.

**II. Approval of Minutes – August 13, 2018 (all, 2 minutes)**

APRC Commissioner Mike Gardiner moved / Anne Bellegia seconded approval of the August 13 S-PAC minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Theis suggested that future S-PAC minutes could be more condensed. Seffinger added that shorter minutes would be more likely to be read; the important items to include would be motions, decisions, and who made them. Bellegia added that these could be bolded for quicker reading. Gardiner noted that all meetings are recorded and available to the public in their entirety, so it would be fine for the minute-taker to use their discretion in abbreviating the minutes. [Digital audio files of S-PAC meetings are available upon request by contacting APRC Administration at 541.488.5340]. Theis closed by affirming that future minutes be shortened sensibly, but include discussion when there are opposing sides and/or voting.

### **III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (all, 1 minute)**

None.

### **IV. Public Input (10 minutes)**

None.

### **V. Set date for Goal Planning Session (Glatt, 10 minutes)**

Senior Services Superintendent Isleen Glatt stated, after consultation with Chair Theis, they recommend that the upcoming Goal Planning Session be longer and more process-oriented than a regular S-PAC meeting. Members agreed that the Goal Planning Session will be held on Tuesday, November 13, from 1-5pm, in lieu of the regular November S-PAC meeting. Glatt requested that this session include framing a new mission statement, in addition to working on goals. At S-PAC request, staff will draft a proposed mission statement to help start the discussion.

Theis noted that many of the goals will come from Glatt's job description and the ASPAC recommendations, which reflect the input from stakeholders. Gardiner clarified that the goals would include those proposed by S-PAC members, and member voting would determine priorities.

### **VI. S-PAC Bylaws Subcommittee Report (20 minutes)**

Glatt requested a name change from Senior Program Advisory Committee to Senior Services Advisory Committee (S-SAC) to reflect the broader goals of the new Senior Services Division (SSD), with the Senior Center as a subset of that Division. She is striving for consistent branding for the Senior Services Division, as there are several names currently in use. All agreed to recommend the name change as part of the bylaws.

Bellegia raised a concern regarding Article III (Membership) of the draft bylaws, which states that the S-PAC must have a minimum of two (2) program participants, and currently only one S-PAC member (Mike Hersh) fits that description; Sandy Theis had been listed as a participant member in error. Bellegia expanded that "participation" may be defined more broadly than one who participates at the Senior Center; this would reflect that the Senior Services Division's (SSD) programs are not limited activities at the Senior Center. Hersh countered that being a participant at the Senior Center is important, whether as clients, staff, volunteers, or in other roles. He argued that it is essential to regularly engage with the seniors at the Senior Center to understand their feelings and needs. Bellegia responded that she spends a lot of time with seniors through her activities with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG); she and Casserly (OLLI) are listening to local seniors in these settings outside the Senior Center.

Bellegia offered to join a yoga class or attend some lunches to be more connected to senior patrons and fill the required second “program participant” role. This will be listed as a community partner member.

Hersh and Bellegia discussed what group of seniors the SSD should primarily serve. Hersh maintained that while Ashland has many seniors, most are well enough off (financially, mentally, physically) to not need SSD support. Hersh stated that priority should be given to those seniors who come to the Senior Center, which evidences greater need (frailty and other risk-factors). Bellegia argued that the SSD should seek to prevent frailty; the larger goal should be to provide a safety net to all seniors in the community. Based on what she’s observed at OLLI, she believes there are many more frail seniors in the community than the regular group that attends Senior Services programs. Hersh added that it is S-PAC’s challenge to identify those in the community who are vulnerable and help them come to the Senior Center, reaching out on a one-on-one basis if required.

This said that it behooves all S-PAC members to have a better sense of Senior Services programs, so that each member is better equipped to serve as an ambassador to the greater community. Seffinger tied these goals into City issues – universal housing, transportation, ADA standards for sidewalks and streets – and asked about the best way for seniors to advocate for their needs, and for the City to heed senior concerns and input. All agreed that each S-PAC member will participate at the Senior Center by engaging in some scheduled activity of their choice, to build familiarity with the population and programs and be in a better position to make recommendations to the SSD.

Bellegia noted that the current bylaw language does not reflect the working role she is hoping S-PAC will have, with members participating in programs and projects, not merely advising the Senior Services Superintendent and APRC. After some discussion, it was agreed that members have a valuable advisory role, the advocacy role named in article II, and may engage in projects that emerge from the goal setting session.

There was discussion about attendance requirements for S-PAC membership. They agreed to add “Members are expected to attend meetings and participate in subcommittees” to the end of Article III of the bylaws. If a member misses multiple meetings, the Chair will reach out to discuss whether it is best for that member to step down.

Gardiner and Black questioned whether Article VIII (Conflict of Interest) was necessary, since S-PAC members will not be making decisions that could financially benefit themselves or their families. Glatt noted that S-PAC might be involved in future decisions on how to allocate Ashland Parks Foundation money donated for senior; members agreed.

Gardiner moved / Bellegia seconded to approve the bylaws as amended:

1. Change of Committee name to Senior Services Advisory Group

2. Article III addition of attendance requirement.
3. Addendum A change of participant member from Theis to Bellegia.

Motion passed unanimously. The name change and bylaws will be recommended to APRC for adoption.

### **BREAK (10 minutes)**

### **VII. “What Seniors Need” Subcommittee Report (20 minutes)**

Bellegia, Glatt, Seffinger and Theis comprise the “What Seniors Need” Subcommittee. Glatt reported that the subcommittee is developing a presentation on senior needs for a joint APRC-City Council meeting. Seffinger requested that the City Council conduct a joint meeting with APRC; Mayor Stromberg and City Administrator Madding offered a joint Study Session on Monday, October 15, from 5-7:30pm. Black clarified that the format of this meeting, in line with APRC Study Sessions, will be a presentation followed by brief public comment, then Q & A with the Council and Commissioners. Bellegia has drafted a presentation outline, which will include survey data from ASPAC, data on Ashland-specific senior needs, data on general senior needs, and how the Senior Services Division and S-PAC are structured to deliver those needs. Glatt clarified that S-PAC will need to ask for the City’s support to meet senior needs.

### **VIII. Items from S-PAC Members (all, 20 minutes)**

Hersh requested that, starting with the next monthly meeting, a short report be given to the S-PAC on APRC and City Council meeting decisions that may affect seniors. This will be added to future agendas.

Hersh discussed Ron Kohl, retired Ashland Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist, as an excellent resource for seniors on safety and security issues; Hersh recommended that Kohl present to S-PAC about his classes and other services for seniors. Hersh is concerned about the lack of security at many Meals on Wheels recipients’ homes, for example, when a front door is unlocked because the resident is too disabled to get up to admit the Meals on Wheels driver. Hersh wondered what the S-PAC could do to ensure better home security for such individuals.

Hersh also expressed concern about the cost to the City of fulfilling all items on AARP Checklist of Essential Features for Age-Friendly Cities. Seffinger agreed that these considerations need to be included in the City’s long-range planning and budgeting.

Theis said the Rogue Valley of Council’s (RVCOG) Senior Advisory Committee looks at national and state-level legislation that might impact seniors. She suggested that S-PAC have a subcommittee or other mechanism to monitor such incoming legislation.

**IX. Next Meetings:**

- **Monday, October 8, 3:00-5:00pm**, Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue – Regular meeting
- **Tuesday, November 13, 1:00-5:00pm**, SOU Hannon Library, Room 352 – Goal Planning Session

Glatt asked if there were items to be added to the October 8 meeting agenda. Bellegia requested a review of the Ashland Parks Foundation: what are the restrictions and opportunities for the funds, and what have they been used for in the past? She also requested a report on the new Ashland Fire & Rescue program offering home safety improvements for seniors.

**XI. Adjournment – 5pm**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Mettler, Senior Services Assistant  
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission