

City of Ashland
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2020

Committee Members Present:

- Anne Bellegia, Co-Chair
- Mike Hersh
- Mike Gardiner
- Mary Russell-Miller
- Stef Seffinger
- Sandy Theis, Chair

Staff Members Present:

- Michael Black
- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

Committee Members Absent:

- Rob Casserly

CALL TO ORDER

Theis called the meeting to order at 3:33pm.

OPENING

Glatt announced that Casserly was not going to be able to attend today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Russell-Miller/Hersh m/s to approve the minutes from January 13, 2020. Voice vote – All AYES.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Glatt announced that Maria Harris had to cancel her presentation to ASAC today due to illness. She will present at the May 11, 2020 meeting. Katharine Danner of Ashland-at-Home, originally scheduled for May, was kind enough to present today instead.

Glatt will report on what the Senior Services Division (SSD) is doing in response to the current Coronavirus situation after Danner's presentation.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

CITY OF ASHLAND PLANNING DEPARTMENT AGE-FRIENDLY HOUSING INITIATIVES – Maria Harris, Planning Manager – POSTPONED

Addition to the Agenda: UPDATE ON ASHLAND-AT-HOME Katharine Danner, Executive Director

Katharine Danner presented an update on Ashland-at-Home (AAH), a "village" model membership organization that provides assistance on an episodic basis for people to continue to live in their own homes and stay engaged in the community (See [presentation handouts](#)). AAH is halfway through its eighth year of operation and one of well over 200 such organizations nationally. It is based on the Beacon Hill Village, started in Boston in 2001. AAH is governed by a board and has 501(c)3 status as a non-profit. Its services are available to anyone age 18+ in the Ashland and Talent areas. Membership is \$500/one-person household or \$600/two-person household, serving mostly middle-income families. There are limited scholarship funds available. Danner is responsible for volunteer recruitment and shared that AAH is able to maintain an equal number of volunteers to members (approximately 70 of each). Volunteers go through a background check and orientation, and are then added to the database where they are matched to client needs. There is no hourly obligation for volunteers, making this a very flexible commitment depending on their availability. The four main service categories offered are: transportation (about

half of service provided), personal services (such as pet care while traveling and respite for caregivers), home support/handyman services, and technical/office support. AAH also offers issue-oriented programs and social gatherings, all of which are open to both members and volunteers.

Danner highlighted a new AAHA program, "Sage's Storytime," a monthly storytelling workshop where participants share five-minute stories by or about elders. The first session, "First Love" on February 26, had over 45 attendees. March's theme will be "I Survived and Learned," and the April meeting will focus on mothers.

Bellegia asked if the new Ashland Connector service was decreasing AAH member demand for rides. Danner replied that AAH ride volume remains steady, as members prefer the door-to-door service that cannot be provided by the Connector, or use Call-A-Ride. Hersh asked what the AAH membership fees are used for; Danner responded: insurance, office space, a small stipend to Danner (as AAH Executive Director), and other basic services, so that the program does not have to rely on grants. Bellegia offered that SOU may be willing to discuss sharing space and matching AAH members with students looking for housing. Danner agreed that AAH would be willing to partner with a vetting organization and work with SOU and OLLI to integrate various services. Seffinger added that AAH vets and trains their volunteers, so families seeking help for a member can feel secure that volunteers will not take advantage of seniors. Also, AAH maintains a list of member-recommended vendors and home services.

Glatt asked how AAH is evolving. Danner replied that their member count tends to remain stable at about 63 which is typical for small standalone village model non-profits. Limitations to growth include marketing challenges and original board members time-limiting out, but AAH garnered several new volunteers and members from the Senior Volunteer Fair at Ashland Senior Center on January 22 and hopes to recruit more at the OLLI Open House in July.

Addition to the Agenda: SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

Glatt reported that staff is very aware of the potential dangers of COVID-19 to seniors and is closely monitoring early guidance from the CDC, Oregon Health Authority, and Jackson County Health Authority. Staff is sanitizing frequently touched surfaces and has posted guidance on hand washing and staying home if sick. At this time, there is no community spread of the virus in Jackson County.

Hersh suggested looking to OSF to determine if and when activities and other services should be canceled. Black responded that OSF is important to consider, but SSD staff will follow the recommendations of public health authorities. Glatt added that she is part of the City's Emergency Management Advisory Committee. She noted that Senior Services patrons are good about staying home if sick, and staff are not to return to work until completely symptom-free. Black reiterated Glatt's message of keeping all clients & staff informed. Bellegia and Hersh asked about the availability of masks and hand sanitizer. Glatt responded that she has back ordered hand sanitizer, which is not currently available, and has some surplus N-95 masks from last year's smoke season, which will be given to anyone at the Senior Center showing any symptoms of illness so they can safely exit the building.

ASAC REPRESENTATION AT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Theis noted the list of ASAC member and SSD staff affiliations in the meeting packet. She suggested members bring up items of relevance as needed during the "Items from ASAC members" portion of meetings.

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Update

Black provided an update on the rebuild of Daniel Meyer pool, which will include changes of benefit to seniors (walkway from Senior Center and zero-depth entry). The timeline has been pushed back to October due to COVID-related closures affecting the contracted manufacturers, so the pool will be open as is this summer.

Gardiner reported that the Japanese Garden rebuild has also been delayed and will start next year, partly to accommodate ADA considerations.

b. City Council Update

Seffinger reported that City Administrator Madding has resigned (last day April 6). The City is also in the process of hiring a Public Works Director. The plan for the City Hall rebuild is now to retrofit the interior while keeping the exterior unchanged. The ballot measure for changing the City Administrator position to one of City Manager is planned for the May ballot, which will also include a bond to fund renovation of City Hall, Pioneer Hall and the Community Center. Black and Seffinger agreed that it would be good to have ASAC or senior input to ensure all three rebuilds incorporate universal design.

Motion: Bellegia/Russell-Miller m/s a recommendation that universal design and all-age friendly accommodations be incorporated into the plans for all three community spaces. Voice vote – All AYES. Theis will draft a letter to this effect to the Mayor of Ashland, City administration, and APRC Director Black; Glatt will send this out after review.

c. Education Report

Mettler provided a [flyer](#) of upcoming events. She reported that the Life History Story Time event on February 26, 2020 was well-received; all who attended had a meaningful experience exchanging stories. She also encouraged all ASAC members to attend Ron Kohl's "Avoiding Frauds, Scams and Cons" presentation on March 11, 2020, and help spread the word about this valuable educational opportunity for seniors. SSD staff is working on education events for summer and beyond, including plans for a Senior Employment Fair in 2020.

d. Senior Services Superintendent Report

Glatt referred to her report included in the meeting packet, highlighting the provided statistics, which show a climbing trend in service provided due to increasing public awareness of the SSD. She also called attention to the new *Seniors Celebrating Creativity* art exhibit at the Senior Center. Casserly helped Glatt connect with OLLI art instructor Ruddy Havill, who is volunteering to oversee and curate the exhibits, and has recruited several OLLI students as exhibitors. There is now a lineup of artists who will exhibit through the rest of the year, and this senior-led effort fits with the mission of celebrating all that seniors have to offer. She invited all ASAC members to the exhibit opening on March 13, 3:30-5pm. She also invited all to the Volunteer and Instructor Appreciation Tea on April 29, 3:30-5pm. Finally, she asked all to recommend anyone suitable they know for the RVCOG Senior Advisory Council, which is seeking more members.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS AND WORK GROUPS

a. Advocacy: Age-Friendly Communities

Bellegia announced that Ashland's application to the AARP Network of Age Communities has been approved, and the Director of AARP in Oregon will make a presentation to the City Council officially welcoming Ashland into their network. The next step is the needs assessment, which can draw from data already collected for the City's livability survey and the restructuring of old Ashland Senior Program. More data is needed from non-senior age groups. Theis and Bellegia are working, with colleagues around the state, on an initiative to make Oregon an Age Friendly State.

b. New ASAC Member

Gardiner reported that he, Glatt and Theis have interviewed prospective new ASAC members, and he has appointed Gina DuQuenne as a new member to start at the May meeting. DuQuenne has numerous roles in the community, City Housing & Human Services Commissioner, Chamber of Commerce member, Rotary Club member, Children's Advocacy Center board member, and founding member of Southern Oregon Pride. She will help ASAC cast a wider net to connect with new and different groups. The remaining member opening, reserved for a program participant, may be filled at a later date.

c. Advocacy: SOU Aging Services Major

This shared that she, Bellegia and Glatt participated in an SOU meeting about their new program for training aging services professionals. This project has been in the works for several years. Recently the SOU provost mandated the launch of a major or minor in aging services, led by Professor Larry Gibbs. Bellegia added that the University will offer this course of study starting next fall as a concentration under the B.A. in Health Administration and plans to develop a separate certificate program in the future.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a. Monday, May 11, 3:30-5:00pm, at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave
- b. Monday, July 13, 3:30-5:00pm, at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave

Adjournment – 5:00 pm

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