

ASHLAND SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Meeting Agenda

July 15, 2021 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84955086558?pwd=RXIjbVhyVzNaOE5JS0FVS2JtNFNiZz09>

Webinar ID: 849 5508 6558

Passcode: 305210

Note: This meeting will be recorded and uploaded to the website to accompany the minutes.

1. Call to Order

2. Election of Commissioner Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

3. Consent Agenda

None

4. Announcements

4.1. Next Regular Meeting: To Be Determined

4.2. Other Announcements from Commissioners

5. Public Forum must be submitted via the [contact form](#) in writing by 10 a.m. the day before the meeting to be included in the minutes. (10 min maximum)

6. Reports & Presentations

6.1. City Legal Staff Presentation

6.2. City Recorder Presentation

- Additional reference materials relating to presentation
ashland.or.us/advisorybodyhandbook

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

8.1. Discussion of Commission request for staff liaison assignment

8.2. [Discussion of Council approved Commission workplan guidance](#)

9. Wrap Up

9.1. Items to be added to future agendas

10. Adjourn

Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission

The purpose of the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission is to provide recommendations and support to the Council and City Manager and education to the community on policies, measures, and practices to foster racial and social equity and respectful intergroup relations.

The Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission consists of no fewer than nine and not more than eleven voting members. Commission membership shall reflect a broad spectrum of community interests and perspectives, specifically including individuals with backgrounds in race and social equity work and a representative cross section of historically marginalized or underrepresented groups, such as Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBTQ+, and disabled persons.

The duties and responsibilities of the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission shall be as follows:

- A. To serve as an advisory body to the City Manager and City Council, with the same authority as other City commissions to define problems in City policies or governance, specify remedies, and partner with community organizations to implement those remedies upon City Manager or City Council approval.
- B. To encourage understanding and celebration of the diversity of the City's population and visitors.
- C. To promote amicable inter-group relations within the City.
- D. To provide or facilitate human rights education and training opportunities for policymakers and the general public.
- E. To foster increased economic opportunities for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBTQ+, and disabled persons, as well as other marginalized persons in the Ashland community.
- F. To consult with other City advisory bodies and non-City entities on matters of mutual interest in the course of developing Commission recommendations.
- G. To engage at least every two years a broad spectrum of community members in gathering information on emerging issues and needs as they relate to human rights and intergroup relations.
- H. An individual may approach the Commission regarding a specific instance of prejudice, discrimination, or racism. If there is a mutual agreement from all parties involved in the incident, then the Commission shall arrange for impartial, nonbinding, collaborative conciliatory services that do not conflict with the functions of any other government body. If any party involved in the incident does not want to engage in conciliatory services, then the aggrieved individual will be referred to qualified sources of impartial advice and counsel.
- I. To deliver to the Council annual reports on its activities and accomplishments in the preceding year and to provide to the Council for its approval the Commission's priorities for the succeeding year and the Commission's draft workplan for developing recommendations on:
 1. Identifying and rectifying historic and contemporary systemic and systematic practices of racism, homophobia, sexism, classism, and other racial and social inequities impacting Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBTQ+, and disabled persons, as well as other marginalized persons in the Ashland community.
 2. Proposed policies, measures and practices to bring about social and racial equity and a greater inclusion for all who live, work, or visit in the City.

Powers

In the performance of its duties, the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission shall:

- A. Provide only services that do not conflict with the functions of any other City department or government agency.
- B. Have no executive or administrative powers or civil rights investigatory or enforcement authority except as specifically provided in this Chapter.
- C. Have the authority to request voluntary testimony but may not compel an individual or organization to appear before or respond to questions from the Commission.
- D. Serve solely as an advisory body whose recommendations shall not be final decisions and are therefore not subject to administrative or judicial appeal.