

City of Ashland
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2024

Committee Members Present:

- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Debra Johnson, Vice Chair
- Jim Bachman
- Noriko Toyokawa
- Cori Frank
- Patty Winner

Committee Members Absent:

- Gina DuQuenne

Staff Present:

- Natalie Mettler
- Shannon Holt
- Cheryl DeSaram

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING

Gardiner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Johnson/Winner m/s to approve the minutes from May 13, 2024. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

PRESENTATION: Jackson County Library Services (JCLS): At Home Services

Kateri Warnick, JCLS Specialist for Outreach Services

The following was covered in discussion:

- At Home Services provides library materials to homebound patrons, many of whom are older adults.
- At Home Services can be provided on a temporary or long-term basis.
- At Home Services tries to replicate library services as closely as possible; items may be mailed or delivered by a volunteer.
- At Home Patrons can check out up to 60 items from the library, for up to 6 weeks instead of the 3 weeks for regular patrons.
- Patrons can check out items from books to items from the Library of Things
- At Home Services offers specialized items for older adults, such as large magnifiers and CD players for audiobooks.
- Seasonal At Home Services includes a partnership with local schools where the kids make crafts or cards for the patrons, who have the option to mail back a note to the kids. At Home Services also offers accessible craft kits.

- There is a simple application to apply for At Home Services, which can be mailed, emailed or printed from the library's website.

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Liaison – Commissioner Bachman

- The Commissioners have been busy with the Parks Director hiring, which will be completed by Wednesday, July 10. Bachman stated that the incoming Director has relevant professional experience, having worked in Washington State Parks and Land Division.
- Two Commissioner seats will up for election this year.

b. City Council Liaison – Councilor Gina DuQuenne

Not present. Mettler shared DuQuenne's report on her behalf:

- Concern about accessing City Evacuation Zones map if there is disaster that disrupts internet access; citizens need a hard copy of this map.
- Superintendent Mettler will reach out to CERT to acquire a large map to post at Ashland Senior Center and small maps to hand out.

c. Education Report – Senior Services Coordinator Shannon Holt

- Cookout was a success serving approximately 120 community members.
- JCLS is teaching a Digital Estate Planning class.
- Accessible Yoga will pilot a one-month class in September.
- Ice Cream Social will be on August 28.
- Staff are finalizing Fall Program Guide.
- The popular Memoir class will be offered again during Winter/Spring 2025.

d. Senior Services Superintendent Report – Senior Services Superintendent Natalie Mettler

Mettler highlighted the following in her Superintendent's report:

- Temporary Office assistant De Saram was introduced. Spoke about her background and responsibilities at Ashland Senior Center.
- Senior Services staff have been meeting with assisted living communities to solicit sponsorships for ongoing activities.
- Coordinator Holt has been assisting the Recreation Division with administrative needs. Recreation Division has now hired an Administrative Assistant whom Holt will help train.
- Ice Cream Social on August 28th will feature the Ashland Brass Band.

The following was covered in discussion:

- What are you looking for in potential sponsors?
Any business could be a potential activity or event sponsor, but historically sponsors have been Assisted/Retirement Living Facilities.
- Has staff noticed an increase in number of patrons seeking respite indoors with increase in smoke and heat?
Yes, and they are respectful of our time and space when we hold classes.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

Livable Ashland Alliance:

- Mettler reported that Katharine Danner and Eva Skuratowicz are now Co-Chairs of Livable Ashland Alliance.
- Newest member, Jordan Rooklyn, has been processing an update on the National Community Survey that was used for the Ashland community needs assessment in 2019.
- Livable Ashland Alliance is working on a website that will include all 8 domains of livability.

b. Other Items from Advisory Committee Members.

- Frank announced that a senior pickleball tournament is being put together.
- Through SOU, Toyokawa is hosting intergenerational Pride lunches and breakfasts.
- At the next meeting, ASAC members will discuss new member recruitment.

Next meeting – Monday, September 9th, 3:30-5:00pm on Zoom

Adjournment – 4:49pm

Respectfully submitted by Shannon Holt, Senior Services Coordinator, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission