

ASHLAND SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
December 5, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Mendel, Tyler, Sage, Greenspan, Houston, Simon.

Council Liaison Present: Dahle

Staff Present: Gooden

Guest: Luis

Houston called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm

1. Land Acknowledgment - We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work - the Iikrakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We denounce the egregious acts of the colonizers and government and recognize the horrific impacts that still exist today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we love and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma and Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhakha - "Where the Crow Lights" - that is now the Ashland City Plaza.

Tyler read land acknowledgment

2. Labor Acknowledgment - We also pause to recognize and acknowledge the labor upon which our country, state, and institutions are built. We remember that our country is built on the labor of enslaved people who were kidnapped and brought to the U.S. from the African continent and recognize the continued contribution of their survivors. We also acknowledge all immigrant labor, including voluntary, involuntary, trafficked, forced, and undocumented people who contributed to the building of the country and continue to serve within our labor force. We acknowledge all unpaid care-giving labor. To the people who contributed this immeasurable work and their descendants, we acknowledge their indelible mark on the space in which we gather today. It is our collective responsibility to critically examine these histories, to repair harm, and to honor, protect, and sustain their contribution to our society.

Mendel read the labor acknowledgment

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the November 7, 2024 Regular Meeting

Simon/Tyler m/s to amend minutes to include: Committee discussed 2024 accomplishments and 2025 work plan. Vote yes: unanimous - motion to amend minutes passed.

Simon/Mendel m/s to approve minutes as amended. Vote yes: unanimous - motion passed.

III. IMPORTANT EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS

1. Universal Human Rights Month, World AIDS/HIV Awareness Month 2. December 1: Rosa Parks Day, World AIDS Day 3. December 3: International Day of People with Disabilities 4. December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 5. December 8: Bodhi Day 6. December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 7. December 16: Las Posadas 8. December 21: Winter Solstice 9. December 24: Christmas Eve 10. December 25: Christmas Day, Hanukkah starts (Dec 25-Jan 2) 11. December 26: Kwanza Starts (Dec 26-Jan 1) 12. December 31: New Year's Eve ****Upcoming Event in January: Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Event, January 20 at the Ashland Armory

Houston read the events as listed on the agenda.

The committee discussed volunteer opportunities for MLK Day, January 20, 2025 at the Ashland Armory at 10am. Staff spoke that sound and plaza permits had been secured for the march to the plaza afterward. The committee clarified with staff to request the MLK flags to fly from Jan 13 through Jan 21, 2025.

1. RED winter event
- 2.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Catherine Greenspan and Victoria Sage introduced themselves as new members. Standing members reciprocated with introductions.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

1. Recruiting Update

Houston spoke regarding open seats and welcomed an invited guest.
Committee discussed challenges of retaining people of color on the committee.

2. Committee liaison assignment check-in

Tyler and Sage gave updates regarding the Climate and Energy Policy Advisory Committee meeting.
Mendel gave updates from the Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee and the Conversation with Chairs meeting.
Simon gave updates regarding contact with the Public Arts Committee and Medford's Commission on Access, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CAEDI).
The committee discussed regional collaboration with similar committees in similar municipalities.

Emily/Houston m/s for staff liaison to reach out and establish contact with similar staff as identified in Medford, Bend, Eugene, and Milwaukie. Vote yes: unanimous - motion passed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recap of planning goals from 2024

The committee discussed 2024 accomplishments for inclusion in a presentation to City Council on Dec 16, 2024.

2. Set workplan goals for 2025 and assign responsibilities to members

The committee discussed 2025 work plan goals for inclusion in the upcoming presentation to City Council scheduled Dec 16, 2024.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.