

ASHLAND SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
February 6, 2025

I. Call to order and Welcome (5 minutes)

Mendel called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

Members present via Zoom: Mendel, Houston, Sage, Greenspan, Tyler, Singh, Simon

Council liaisons present via Zoom: Dahle, DuQuenne

Staff liaison present in person: Gooden

1. Land Acknowledgment - We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work - the Ikirakutsum 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.

Sage read the Land Acknowledgment

2. Labor Acknowledgement
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 peoples 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.

Houston read the Labor Acknowledgment

3. Holidays and Events
Monthly Observances: February is Black History Month.
4. Approval of Minutes from the 1.2.2025 Meeting

Tyler / Houston m/s to approve Minutes from 1.2.2025. Mendel, Houston, Sage, Greenspan, Tyler, Singh, Simon: YES.

Motion Passed.

II. Public Forum

III. Liaison Business (20 minutes)

Houston announced her resignation from the committee due to personal circumstances.

The committee discussed membership and the role of co-chair that Houston is vacating.

1. Review assignments

Members gave updates on their respective committee assignments:

Greenspan: asked for introduction to the Planning Commission and will attend - Gooden will help her connect with staff liaison.

Tyler: Climate and Energy Policy Advisory Committee discussed electric vehicle charging, carbon pollution impact fee, and Transportation System Plan (TSP)

Sage: Transportation Committee meeting. Will trade with Singh and move to Historic Preservation

Simon: Public Arts - held discussion regarding Railroad Park vandalism with a Strategic Planning session planned

Houston: has been assigned to Historic Preservation - someone will need to take over

Singh: expressed interest in Transportation - Sage will trade and move to Historic Preservation - Gooden will help her connect with staff liaison.

Mendel: Housing and Human Services discussed winter weather shelter, Beach Creek subdivision, Sunstone Housing affordable housing project - HHSAC will be having it's community resource fair at the Library on February 26, from 5-7pm (flyer in agenda packet)

Discussion of the monthly meeting of committee chairs (known as CoCoConvo)

2. Reports from committees:
HHSAC will host its Community Resource Fair on February 26, 2025 from 5-7p.m. at the Ashland Library

The committee discussed attending HHSAC's resource fair. Sage will be attending on behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and is happy to represent SERJAC also. Discussion regarding tabling materials for the committee. Council Liaisons discussed this as a recruitment opportunity for the Committee without prepared materials.

3. Update about DEIA Committees in other communities

Simon and Gooden gave an update, having attended Medford's Commission on Access Diversity Equity and Inclusion (CADEI) meeting on January 21, 2024 to maintain regional collaboration and partnership. An invitation has been extended for CADEI to attend SERJAC meetings and committee discussed. Sage spoke of a regional Latin X/O/A Interagency Committee that meets once a month -with approximately 40-60 organizations that participate. Sage will attend and report back.

IV. Tabling events discussion (10 minutes)

1. Consider committee suggestions for tabling and community outreach possibilities.

Committee discussed printing prepared flyers available from the Oregon Department of Justice about the Reporting Bias Crime Hotline. Gooden updated the committee that there is no budget for preparing recruitment materials, but items prepared by the committee that clear legal and city manager review to ensure alignment with the Committee's charge from the Council as an advisory committee may be printed by staff liaison. Mendel will work with Gooden for printing of the Reporting Bias Crime Hotline flyer for availability at tabling events.

V. Issues to consider (45 minutes)

1. For discussion:
<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/community-toolkit/>

Committee discussed an Ashland Sunrise Project forum planned regarding this topic at 6pm Feb 24, 2025 at Unitarian Church - SERJAC was invited to be a co-sponsor with immigration attorneys and other community resources present.

Simon/Tyler (motion / second) for DuQuenne to ask the City Manager if SERJAC can co-sponsor this event. Yes: Mendel, Houston, Sage, Greenspan, Tyler, Singh, Simon. Motion passed.

2. T-shirt vandalism of memorial in Railroad Park
3. D*** Indian Memorial Road

Sage spoke on the topic. Simon suggested Sage draft a proclamation for the Committee to answer.

Tyler/Greenspan m/s to pursue the draft of a proclamation of renaming dead Indian memorial road in concert with the wishes of the Native community. All in favor . passed unanimous

4. City-wide DEIA Climate Survey - update from subcommittee

Subcommittee has not yet met. Houston can continue to engage as a community resource in support and Greenspan will join this Subcommittee

5. Consideration of Retail Council of New York State's Customers' Bill of Rights

VI. Assign Action Items and Adjournment (5 minutes)

Discussion about March agenda with City Manager planning to present the new Committee Handbook and related policies and be available to address other issues brought up in DEI assessment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm