

**ASHLAND GENERAL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 5, 2024**

I. Debrief

Debrief - Council Presentation Outcomes from May 7, 2024

In attendance: Paula Hyatt, Lisa Verner, John Love, Nancy Seward, Alissa Kolodzinski, Kerrick Gooden

Introduction of new member, Nancy Seward

Hyatt spoke that the recommendations to Council on May 7, 2024 were accepted in totality. This committee will turn its attention to updating the work plan to remove 'pilot' language and changing the program timeline to align with the 2024-25 fiscal year. Hyatt opened the discussion to change the grant application to include application types:

- sliding scale
- infrastructure
- staffing
- special needs / behavioral support / etc.
- toddler programming

Funding will change to reflect the residual amount available, as \$135K.

Revisions made to working document during the meeting are attached.

Infrastructure type needs defining, such as playground equipment that can be significant, tangible, immovable structures with a defined lifespan.

Application process will mirror that of the Housing and Human Services Committee that reviews all applications at once to consider how to best distribute funds among qualified applicants. Inherent with childcare and early learning is the reality of more demand than supply.

Reporting requirements need to be revised to address the type of application, and would be collected quarterly, while completed deliverables would remain the same.

Hyatt offered to update the work plan based on the Council meeting and this Ad-Hoc meeting, and then send back to committee members for review and feedback. Goal will be to have this completed by June 30, 2024 so finance and legal departments can review as soon as possible in order to be ready to respond with an application for the Child Care Infrastructure Program grants, which are anticipated to be announced in late June or early July, 2024

II. Direction

Direction regarding grant program next steps

Love reported on the Child Care Infrastructure Program. An announcement will come out soon, expected by the end of June or early July, 2024. Applicants will only have three weeks to submit applications. The City itself should qualify as an applicant, and applications can include land acquisition.

Major renovations could be a good fit for programs like Science Works. Hyatt will contact Science Works, YMCA, and SOU. Sunstone Housing Collaborative is a non-profit that could potentially leverage property acquisition funding as they would like to include an early learning component.

John talked to Asante Community Health Foundation, but most employees work in Medford. Same with Providence.

Love suggested the committee prioritize what the City wants to seek funding for and/or programs to endorse, such as the YMCA, Children's World, etc., and could consider who is most ready to apply.

Verner and Love volunteered to contact and assist Science Works if they are interested, and discussed if programs could partner such as Children's World with Science Works to stand up a new program to be considered. Seward suggested starting with Children's World to discuss this specific potential.

Hyatt offered to look at the Committee actions from today, update working documents, and send back to the committee for feedback. Hyatt will also talk to partners as discussed. Love will stay tuned for the launch of the Infrastructure program grants, and check on the licensing agency. When talking to partners, Love suggested encouraging them to prepare by reviewing page two of the informational so that they are ready to apply in the narrow application window.

III. Adjournment

Next meeting TBD - Poll team for date and time

Next meeting: TBD. Paula will send a doodle poll for next meeting.