



Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way - 4:30-6:00PM

<https://zoom.us/j/98876055861>

Note: Agenda updated 6.5.2025 to include requested Zoom link

I. Call to Order and Welcome

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
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 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

II. Approval of Minutes from 5.1.2025 Meeting

1. Approval of minutes from the 5.1.2025 SERJAC meeting

III. Public Forum

IV. Announcements and Events

1. Monday, June 16, 2025 City Council Study Session - City Council is scheduled to receive an update from HR director regarding implementation of DEI assessment recommendations.
*Update - other Council Study Session needs may push this item - City Manager will provide a memo regarding this change.
2. Playwrights walk plaque unveiling honoring Lorraine Hansberry and Black Lives in partnership with Public Arts Advisory Committee at Railroad Park on June 22, 2025 at 2pm
3. Next SERJAC meeting will be Thursday July 10, 2025 from 4:30-6:00 PM in the Otte-Peterson Conference room at the Grove (1195 East Main St.)
4. June is Pride Month
5. Juneteenth 2025 - BASE (Black Alliance Social Events) is hosting a 'Celebrate Freedom' event Saturday June 21, 2025 11am-8pm in Pear Blossom Park at 312 E. 4th Street in Medford (See agenda packet)

V. Liaison Updates and Reports



Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

1. Current liaison assignments:
Greenspan – Planning Commission
Tyler – Climate and Energy Policy Advisory Committee
Sage – Historic Preservation Advisory Committee
Preskenis – Transportation Advisory Committee
Simon – Public Arts Advisory Committee
Mendel – Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee
2. Brief update on DEI Climate Survey

VI. New Business

1. Round table by members for ideas or issues in the community

VII. ADJOURNMENT

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Kerrick Gooden at citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov or 541.488.6002 (TTY phone number 1.800.735.2900). Notification at least three business days before the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



**ASHLAND SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
May 1, 2025**

4:30 - 6:00PM in the Siskiyou Room at 51 Winburn Way
These are DRAFT minutes until approved by the committee.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting called to order at 4:32pm

Members present: Allison Mendel, Emily Simon, John Tyler, Victoria Sage, Cassie Preskenis, Catherine Greenspan

Council liaison present: Gina DuQuenne

Staff liaison present: Kerrick Gooden

Guest: Sean Smith

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

Tyler read the 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 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.

Mendel read the labor acknowledgment.

II. Approval of Minutes from 4.3.2025 Meeting

1. Minutes from the 4.3.2025 meeting (see agenda packet)

The motion was made to approve the minutes from 4.3.2025

Motion: Tyler. Second:Sage. Vote: all ayes. **Motion passed.**

III. Public Forum

None

IV. Liaison Updates

1. Current liaison assignments:
Greenspan – Planning Commission
Tyler – Climate and Energy Policy Advisory Committee
Sage – Historic Preservation Advisory Committee
Preskenis – Transportation Advisory Committee
Simon – Public Arts Advisory Committee
Mendel – Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee

Greenspan- attended the last Planning Commission meeting which discussed concerns regarding a trail access easement related to a potential development.

Tyler- attended the last Climate and Energy committee meeting which discussed expansion of the low-income utility assistance program, consideration of a local gas tax, how to encourage public transition from gas to electric, and Ashland's Climate Friendly Areas (CFA) adoption.

Sage- will attend the Historic Preservation meeting next week.

Preskenis- attended the last Transportation meeting which included a planning and development overview, discussion about near-miss and SeeClickFix reporting, and a presentation about electric bike safety with a focus on safe use by youth.

Simon- has been working with the Public Arts committee on the new memorial will be discussed as the next item. Mendel- attended the last Health and Human Services meeting, which discussed how LaClinca is working on health services for the unhoused and how to bring such services to Ashland. The committee discussed the City Council's decision to change the Community Block Development (CBDG) funds distribution from the committee's recommendation.

DuQuenne- spoke with Mayor Graham regarding the feedback SERJAC received from the legal department about the short questionnaire developed at the last meeting. DuQuenne and Graham will discuss with Cotta and report back. Mendel spoke of meeting with Cotta about the questionnaire.

Gooden met with Kenwani Kravitz, Native Nation's Liaison for SOU, and spoke of her offer to present to the committee regarding sovereign nations.

2. Update from the Public Arts Advisory Committee regarding the Say Their Names Memorial project at Railroad Park

Preskenis and Simon presented about the Public Arts Advisory Committee's new memorial project. It was clarified this is not intended to replace, but rather to commemorate the memorial that was vandalized as well as its message. The committee discussed how to support the Sunday, June 22 dedication and gathering and how to form a working group between the two committees (PAAC and SERJAC) for planning this event.

The motion was made to create a subcommittee to cooperate with the Public Arts Advisory Community to organize and promote the June 22 plaque unveiling.

The motion was made by Simon and seconded by Preskenis. All in favor. Motion passes

3. Attendance standards for liaison assignments

Committee discussed briefly and will continue at the next regular meeting.

V. Events and Holidays

1. May Events

Gooden read the May events from the Agenda Packet.

VI. Subcommittee Update - Citywide DEIA Climate Survey

To be discussed at next meeting.

VII. Issues to Consider - any additional items from members

Simon will chair June's meeting due to Mendel's planned absence and spoke about attending the June 17 City Council meeting to hear the City Manager's update to Council regarding the City's Diversity Equity and Inclusion report.

Sage spoke that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is have a walk for mental health on May 17. The Justice for Hakiym Simpson initiative was discussed.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

June is [Pride Month 2025](#)

(from awarenessdays.com)

Pride Month is a month-long celebration that recognizes the LGBTQ+ community and their contributions to society. It is a time to acknowledge the challenges faced by this community and to stand in solidarity with their fight for equality, acceptance, and human rights. Pride Month is a joyful and colorful display of love, unity, and resilience, with events and activities that promote inclusivity, educate the public, and celebrate the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities.

Pride Month has its roots in the Stonewall Uprising, which occurred in New York City in June 1969. The uprising was a turning point in the LGBTQ+ rights movement, sparked by a series of protests against police harassment and discrimination. The following year, the first Pride marches were organized to commemorate the anniversary of the uprising.



June 21, 2025

Juneteenth 2025

Pear Blossom Park 212 N Bartlett St, Medford, OR

JUNETEENTH June 21st, 2025 Saturday 11am - 8pm Pear Blossom Park 312 E. 4th street Medford, Oregon CELEBRATE FREEDOM: LIVE BANDS, DJ, VENDORS, KIDS ZONE AND MORE...



This event was found on [Ashland Together](#)

June 22, 2025

Celebrate the unveiling of the Playwrights Walk Plaque honoring Lorraine Hansberry and Black lives



2 PM @ RAILROAD PARK, A ST. ASHLAND, OR

~ Designed by Micah BlackLight ~ Cast in bronze by Jack Langford ~

Celebrate the plaque dedication with guest speakers in honor of Juneteenth!
Brought to you by Ashland's Social Equity & Racial Justice Advisory Committee,
Public Arts Advisory Committee, and Ashland Playwrights Walk sponsors -- Oregon
Shakespeare Festival, Southern Oregon University, the Ashland Chamber of
Commerce & the City of Ashland

CONTACT: Ashland's *Public Arts Advisory Committee* or *Social Equity Racial Justice Advisory Committee*