

**ASHLAND SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
June 5, 2025**

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

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 4:36PM

Members present: John Tyler, Cassie Preskenis, Emily Simon, Victoria Sage, Catherine Greenspan (via Zoom)

Guest: Sean Smith

Also present: Council Liaisons Gina DuQuenne and Jeff Dahle (via Zoom); Staff Liaison Kerrick 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

Smith 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

Preskenis read the labor acknowledgment

**II. Approval of Minutes from 5.1.2025 Meeting**

1. Approval of minutes from the 5.1.2025 SERJAC meeting

Tyler motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Preskenis. The motion was approved unanimously.

**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.

Gooden updated the committee that this item was indeed pushed per other Study Session needs. The committee discussed that it does not need a memo from the City Manager and appreciated the update - the committee wants to show support through attendance when this item comes before Council.

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

Simon and Preskenis updated the committee regarding this event planned for June 22, 2025. Simon suggested members could bring cookies to the event and spoke that flyers publishing the event will be put up around town. Gooden spoke that the event was added to the City Manager's Report for June, and that the Communications Officer will push to the City's events calendar and social media pages. Mentioned as a future agenda item for discussion: Ancestors Call - Crystallizing our Future as a permanent representation for the Say Their Names memorial.

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.)

Committee discussed this one-time meeting change due to staffing needs.

#### 4. June is Pride Month

DuQuenne updated that SO Pride will be pushing events in June through its website and social media. Gooden updated that the City's Pride flags as scheduled to fly from June 9-16 in honor of 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)

Simon spoke that the plaque unveiling was scheduled for the day after Juneteenth so as to not get in the way. Gooden updated that the City's Juneteenth flags are scheduled to fly from June 16-23 in honor of Juneteenth.

### **V. Liaison Updates and Reports**

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

DuQuenne plans to attend the regular Committee Chair meeting to remind committee chairs why SERJAC is coming to their committees.

Greenspan spoke of having attended Planning Commission meetings - the most applicable issue to SERJAC has been affordable housing.

Tyler spoke of having attended Climate and Energy Policy Advisory meetings and felt welcome. The committee has seemed sensitive to social justice issues and seems open to input if needed.

Sage reported that the Historic Preservation committee hasn't had a quorum recently, but she has attended three meetings and would like to provide broader engagement and support.

Preskenis spoke of attending Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings where she has been asked for her input on several topics and feels no hesitation to offer input. TAC has identified SERJAC as a key informant for the upcoming Transportation System Plan update.

Simon spoke of supporting the Public Arts Advisory Committee's playwrights plaque project to be discussed earlier. The committee discussed generally how to support and provide input to committees and Council.

#### 2. Brief update on DEI Climate Survey

Simon relayed that Mendel had a positive meeting with Graham regarding this.

### **VI. New Business**

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

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm