ASHLAND GENERAL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
July 3, 2025

Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning
July 3, 2025 - 11:00am - Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:01am

1. Confirm quorum present

Quorum confirmed-
Members present: Lisa Verner, John Love, Jessica Therkelsen, Nancy Seward, Paula Hyatt, Anne Sebanc (via Zoom)
Council Liaison present: Dylan Bloom
Staff present: Alissa Kolodzinksi

2. Approval of draft minutes of 6.5.25 meeting (see agenda packet)

Seward moved to approve the minutes of the 6.5.25 meeting. Motion was seconded by Therkelsen. All ayes. Motion passed.

3. Suggested additions to today's agenda

none

4. Brief announcements

Southern Oregon University (SOU) has announced public presentations with Question and Answers by potential partners to build and operate a senior living and education facility to replace Cascade Hall on July 9 and 11, 2025 at SOU's Music Recital Hall. Bloom spoke of the potential for a private entity to acquire a city property to develop a childcare center and plans to discuss a potential federal match of Ashland's childcare program funds during an upcoming meeting with Congressman Bentz.

A. Reqeust to change standing meeting time

The committee discussed changing the regular meeting time to 10:30am instead of 11:00am. All members present were in agreement. Staff confirmed that the existing room is available.

II. Public Forum

III. Continuation of Business from June meeting

1. Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program Applications

Committee discussed general options for the early childcare grant program funding allocations for the biennium and reviewed eligibility criteria as outlined in the program narrative.

A. Summary of committee members' ratings of each application (Love)

Committee reviewed and discussed grant program applications.

B. Committee members discuss each application and weigh in regarding recommendations for each:

1. Which applications the committee recommends funding, and;
2. Amount of funding for each recommended application

The committee reviewed each application, discussed eligibility and prioritization criteria, and considered how to distribute the available funding. The committee decided to award $100K this year so that the remaining $135K budgeted for the biennium will be reserved for next year.

After extensive discussion, **Verner moved to award the Ashland Family YMCA at $50,000, Avery Street at $30,000, and Mountain Star at $20,000. Seconded by Seward. All ayes (Seward, Verner, Hyatt, Love, Therkelsen, Sebanc - Yes). Motion passed.**

The committee agreed to provide supportive feedback to unfunded programs to strengthen their applications for consideration next year.

2. Business engagement work plan - finalize questionnaire and plan (see agenda packet)

Due to time constraints, this and other items were pushed until the next meeting.

A. Businesses to be approached

B. Questions to be asked

3. Update chart about progress on the committee's goals (see agenda packet)

IV. New Business

1. Decide on day and time of future committee meetings

Decided under Announcements - **Moving forward, the new standing meeting time will be 10:30am**

V. Adjournment to August 7 Meeting

1. Any needed follow-up on Business Engagement Work Plan
2. Discussion of progress on the committee's goals
3. Continue discussion of cultivating future funding
4. Committee members' suggestions of additional topics
5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm