



**ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)**

**MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 3:30 – 5:00 pm**

**In-Person at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave, Ashland**

*To join meeting or give public input, see instructions on page 2.*

- I. Opening (Gardiner, 1 min)
- II. Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2024 (all, 2 min)
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (all, 2 min)
- IV. Public Input (5 min) - *See page 2 for instructions.*
- V. New Business (Gardiner, 5 min)
  - a. Bylaw compliance
  - b. Membership recruitment for open ASAC seat
- VI. Jackson County Library Services, At Home Services – Mackenzie Pollock and Kateri Warnick, JCLS At Home Services staff (30 minutes)
- VII. Standing Reports (25 min)
  - a. APRC Liaison (Bachman)
  - b. City Council Liaison (DuQuenne)
  - c. Education Report (Holt)
  - d. Senior Services Superintendent Report (Mettler)
- VIII. Items from ASAC Members or Work Groups (15 min)
  - a. Livable Ashland Alliance update
  - b. Other items from ASAC members? (All)
- IX. Next Meeting: Monday, September 9, 3:30-5:00pm, via Zoom
- X. Adjournment – 5:00pm

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).*

TO GIVE PUBLIC INPUT IN THE MEETING:

If you would like to give public input for the meeting, please submit your written comments or a request to speak to [natalie.mettler@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:natalie.mettler@ashlandoregon.gov), no later than by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Please include the information above plus the topic you would like to speak on.



City of Ashland  
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)  
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2024

**Committee Members Present:**

- Anne Bellegia
- Gina DuQuenne
- John Engelhardt
- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Patty Winner

**Staff Present:**

- Brandon Terry
- Leslie Eldridge
- Shannon Holt
- Natalie Mettler

**Committee Members Absent:**

- Jim Bachman
- Cori Frank
- Noriko Toyokawa

**CALL TO ORDER**

Gardiner called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

**OPENING**

Gardiner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Engelhardt/Bellegia m/s to approve the minutes from January 8, 2024 and March 11, 2024. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

None.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**PRESENTATION: Emergency Preparedness: Perspectives from a Life-long First Responder**

Kelly Burns, City of Ashland Emergency Management Coordinator

The following was covered in discussion:

- When sheltering in place, you should be able to do so for up to 2 weeks.
- Mapping of the neighborhoods is a good idea but never completed while the Alameda Fire was happening, will there be drones in the future?  
Burns is working with a local group and the National Guard, which have drone capability.
- A reminder that you can tune into 1700 AM radio for any emergency information in your area.
- Is there any advice for the older community who may need help?  
There are a few different places to register with, including Ashland's new Community Connect and Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) Disaster Registry. These track any special needs so that first responders can act accordingly.

- How we should be reporting risks that we observe?  
Burns stated that calling Emergency 911 is the appropriate solution.
- Does the Fire Department offer training for neighborhoods?  
Burns referred Sydney Jenkins, Fire and Life Safety Specialist; the Ashland Community Emergency Response Team (CERT Team) also offers some training.

## STANDING REPORTS

### a. APRC Liaison – Commissioner Bachman

Bachman was absent. Interim Parks Director Eldridge has nothing to add.

### b. City Council Liaison – Councilor Gina DuQuenne

Nothing to present.

### c. Education Report – Senior Services Coordinator Shannon Holt

- Offering a free accessible yoga class in June as a trial before adding more adaptive exercise classes.
- Jackson County Library Services (JCLS), which offers monthly Tech Basics classes at Ashland Senior Center, will present a one-time class on Digital Estate Planning in July.
- Senior Services instructor Beth Morris, who offers Personalized Strength and Balance classes at Ashland Senior Center, was featured in both the *Sneak Preview* and *Locals Guide*, which brought in new participants for her classes.

### d. Senior Services Superintendent Report – Senior Services Superintendent Natalie Mettler

Mettler highlighted the following in her Superintendent's report:

- Temporary Office assistant De Saram will be assisting with Utility Billing customers needing help setting up their online accounts, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9am-1pm, at Ashland Senior Center. Many of the customers needing this assistance are older adults, but De Saram will assist customers of all ages.
- Looking at options to retain De Saram beyond end of June.
- Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) once again has a volunteer onsite at Ashland Senior Center for in-person appointments one day a week. This will expand to two days a week during Medicare Open Enrollment.
- City of Ashland is moving to the new website and staff are working to migrate webpages.
- Instructor and Volunteer Appreciation tea will be on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. ASAC members are welcome to attend!

The following was covered in discussion:

- How does a person get an appointment with De Saram and can she help with the applying for utility assistance?  
A person would call the Utility Billing customer service number (541-488-6004) to schedule an appointment. And yes, Senior Services staff can all help with applying for the year-round senior utility discount and the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP).

## ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

Livable Ashland Alliance:

- Bellegia informed the Livable Ashland Alliance has been dormant for a few months due to numerous changes with members moving and retiring.
- Newest member Jordan Rooklyn has been processing an update on the National Community Survey that was used for the Ashland community needs assessment, which was last done in 2019.
- Member Eva Skuratowicz, who is on the Ashland School Board, is in the process of assessing the needs of Ashland's community.
- Bellegia will be stepping down from serving as Co-Chair in June.
- Asante Ashland has been designated as an Age-Friendly hospital.
- SOU has been designated as an Age-Friendly University.
- The Steering Committee is working on a website that will highlight the AARP/WHO 8 domains of livability and feature age-friendly improvements in Ashland.

**b. Other Items from Advisory Committee Members.**

- OLLI Open House will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at SOU from 1-4pm. AARC and the Senior Services Division will have a table at this event.
- Bachman acknowledged Bellegia's last meeting and thanked her for her service.
- At the next meeting, ASAC members will discuss new member recruitment.

**Next meeting** – Monday, July 8th, 3:30-5:00pm in person at Senior Center.

**Adjournment** – 5pm

*Respectfully submitted by Shannon Holt, Senior Services Coordinator, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission*

# ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

## COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Landt  
Leslie Eldridge  
Jim Lewis  
Jim Bachman  
Justin Adams



Michael A. Black, AICP  
Director

541.488.5340  
AshlandParksandRec.org  
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

## STAFF MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASAC)  
**FROM:** Natalie Mettler, Senior Services Superintendent  
**DATE:** July 1, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** Superintendent's Report to ASAC

### PROGRAMMING & SERVICES

- End-of-fiscal year update for service statistics will be presented in September meeting.
- 18 attended the free Smokewise classes on 5/22/24, taught by staff from Ashland Fire and Rescue. In preparation for the coming smoke season, participants learned about maintaining indoor air quality and received free materials to build their own DIY air purifiers.



- 10 attended the free accessible yoga class on 6/21/24, taught by Senior Services instructor Cheri Theobald. As this trial class was successful, we will be bringing on a weekly accessible yoga class in September.

• The new featured artist in the *Seniors Celebrating Creativity* exhibition (July-September) is Laurel (aka Laurie) Winters, a longtime cribbage player at Ashland Senior Center. Drop by during our open hours to come see Laurie's art!

- Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) Digital Services will teach a new class, "Digital Estate Planning," at Ashland Senior Center on 7/10/24.
- 50 seniors and family members enjoyed the Britt Festival Orchestra's performance of "Beethoven, Tchaikovsky & Geneva Lewis" on 6/15/24. The Britt Education and Outreach program donated these tickets.



- Over a hundred senior community members (and some grandchildren!) attended the annual Cookout for Seniors & Their Families in Hunter Park on 6/29/24. Many thanks to our event co-sponsors Ashland Police Department and the Village at Valley View, as well as Audrey Flint and her senior dancers, and event volunteers Esther, Janine, Kathy, Kim, Marcy, Patty, Rolf and Scott.



## PARTNERSHIPS

- **Sponsors:** Staff met with potential new sponsor Whole Heart Elder Care.

## VULNERABLE SENIORS

- The Smokewise program has provided two hundred N-95 masks for distribution to local older adults. These are available for pick up at the Ashland Senior Center office during open hours.

## ADVOCACY

- Mettler partnered with Juan Caez, Elise Stuhr Center Supervisor (programs for age 55+) of Tualatin Hill Park & Recreation District, to facilitate the Oregon Recreation and Park Association DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Committee June IDEA Campfire discussion on All-Age Livability.
- Mettler has been elected to serve as the Chair of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments Senior Advisory Council for the 7/1/24-6/30/25 fiscal year.

## VOLUNTEERS

- We had a lovely time honoring our instructors and volunteers at our annual Appreciation Tea on 5/17/24. Thank you all, for all you do!



## STAFF/TRAINING

- Staff are continuing to explore financial options to be able to retain temporary office assistant DeSaram beyond June 30, the date to which her hiring had been budgeted (using remaining funds from the Fall 2023 vaccination clinics and salary savings from staff changes). De Saram is currently being hired through Express Professionals, with whom we have extended her hire date through July 31.
- **Staff training:** De Saram, Holt and Mettler attended the Ashland Community Health Foundation annual symposium on 6/21/24. The theme this year was “The Path to Health Equity: Building Healthier communities.”

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **Senior News:** The June and July [Senior News](#) issues featured information about special educational events and highlighted selected ongoing activities, as well as information about UTIs in older adults, the Double Up Food Bucks program, signs of a scam, and the plethora of services provided by Jackson County Library Services.

