



# Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 9, 2026

4:30-6:00 PM - Otte-Peterson Conference Room at the Grove - 1195 East Main St.

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## I. Call to Order

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 3.5.2026 Meeting

1. Approval of minutes from 3.5.2026 meeting

## III. Public Forum

## IV. Unfinished Business

1. Regional ICE activity: review of current resources posted on City of Ashland website (Update from Mendel on behalf of Simon)
  - A. Current resources from City of Ashland website:  
<https://ashlandoregon.gov/1168/Immigration-Resources>  
A draft of suggested updates to this site from the working group is included in the agenda packet for SERJAC consideration.
2. Committee recruitment update (Gooden - 5min.)
  - A. The news release post with recruitment language is live and included in newsletter, etc.  
<https://ashlandoregon.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/462>

## V. Liaison Updates and Reports

1. Update from current liaison assignments:  
Greenspan – Planning Commission  
Tyler – Transportation Advisory Committee  
Simon – Public Arts Advisory Committee



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Mendel – Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee (10 min.)  
Smith -- Parks  
Mendel -- CoCoConvo (No meeting due to scheduling conflict)

## VI. New Business

1. Discussion: Decision to not fly the Cesar Chavez flag this year and how to continue support for farm workers. (Gooden 5 min.)
  - A. News Release on 3.30.2026: <https://ashlandoregon.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/458>

We have chosen not to fly the Cesar Chavez flag this year, as we reassess how to commemorate farm workers and the broader movement for labor rights, dignity and fair working conditions. Since 2022, the City of Ashland has flown a Cesar Chavez flag the week of March 31. Recent allegations surrounding Cesar Chavez, however, has led multiple organizations, including the United Farm Workers, to pause celebrations and tributes. The legacy of farm worker advocacy extends far beyond any one individual, and Ashland remains committed to honoring and uplifting the contributions of farm workers and supporting the efforts that advance equity, safety and justice.

- [Link to Statement from the UFW Foundation](#)

## VII. Ongoing or Future Items for Consideration

1. ELEA Working Group (Simon and Smith)
2. Belonging Survey - Results, analysis, etc. (Smith - 30 min.)
3. Equitable Housing Plan Working Group

## VIII. Announcements and Events

1. **Choosing Courage**  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026 @ 6:30-8:00pm  
SOU Recital Hall  
450 S. Mountain Ave.  
[Here is more information from Ashland Together](#)

## IX. Adjournment

*If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, including electronic access, please contact Kerrick Gooden at [citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto: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.*