



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.

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





Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

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 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
March 5, 2026**

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

NOTE: These are DRAFT minutes until approved by the committee

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4.34 p.m.

Present were committee members John Tyler, Sean Smith, Catherine Greenspan, Allison Mendel, and Emily Simon.

Also present was 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.

Tyler read the labor acknowledgment.

II. Approval of Minutes from 2.5.2026 Meeting

1. Approval of minutes from 2.5.2026 meeting

Tyler moved to approve the minutes. Smith seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

III. Public Forum

none

IV. Unfinished Business

1. Regional ICE activity - should SERJAC issue recommendation to Council? (Tyler - 5 min.)

Gooden shared DuQuenne's council liaison update as requested because she could not attend in person: State legislators are debating **HB 4138** to restrict police and other law enforcement from wearing face covers while interacting with the public and require officers to show their name, badge number, and agency. Several community members attended Ashland City Council on March 3rd to ask what Ashland is doing. DuQuenne offered to support a request for SERJAC to present to the City Council regarding the issue if/when it is ready.

Tyler presented his research into suggested updates for the Immigration Resources page on the City's website. The committee discussed the Ashland.News article by Mayor Graham and considered the Portland Immigration Rights Coalition (PIRK) website as a good example of a resource. Greenspan offered to consolidate recommendations as discussed and will provide to working group ahead of Simon's meeting with Graham about the issue.

- A. Current resources from City of Ashland website:
<https://ashlandoregon.gov/1168/Immigration-Resources>

2. Committee recruitment and liaison assignments (15 min.)

The committee discussed the draft SERJAC recruitment letter brought by the working group. Suggested edits included adding the age requirement. Gooden advised to make sure it has Council's blessing as it is coming from SERJAC rather than an individual. The committee asked Gooden to send it to SERJAC's Council Liaisons and City Manager for direction/consideration.

The committee discussed liaison assignments: Tyler will move to the Transportation Advisory Committee instead of attending CEPAC.

V. Liaison Updates and Reports

1. Update from current liaison assignments:
 - Greenspan – Planning Commission
 - Tyler – Climate and Energy Policy Advisory Committee
 - Simon – Public Arts Advisory Committee
 - Mendel – Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee (5 min.)
 - Smith -- Parks
 - Mendel -- CoCoConvo (10 min.)

Greenspan reported on having attended that last Planning Commission meeting. Discussion included concern over the definition of affordable units related to a proposed development on Nursery Street. Concerns included small / impractical units being described as affordable due to size alone. This may be of ongoing interest to SERJAC related to social equity.

Tyler reported on having attended the last CEPAC meeting where discussion included home energy evaluations and rebates for electrification.

Simon reported that PAAC discussed the Playwright's Walk plaques and how suggested additions are reviewed with consideration to the rest of the public art collection. PAAC membership has changed. Discussion also included the status of the Butler- Perozzi fountain restoration and the need for repair to the 'bouncing ball' sculpture. Art on the Elk's building is scheduled to go up in July. The Playwright's Walk plaque that includes a quote from Lorraine Hansberry at railroad park will be featured in the playbill of OSF's A Raisin in the Sun.

Mendel reported that HHSAC reviewed social service grant applications and did a terrific job from a social equity and racial justice perspective. Mendel also reported that the CoCoConvo (regular meeting of committee/commission chairs) included discussion about the Butler-Perozzi fountain restoration project and the Transportation System Plan being 10 years out of date (potential interest from SERJAC related to ongoing ADA considerations). Micah BlackLight's sculpture 'Ancestors Future: Crystallizing Our Call' may be ready for installation in September. Other discussion included the 2200 Ashland St. Ad Hoc's report to Council and considerations regarding the history and future of City Hall.

2. Update on [Land Justice: Tribal Voices on Land Back](#) panel held 2.19.26 (Gooden - 5 min.)
[Here is a link to the recording of the panel discussion.](#)

Gooden gave a brief synopsis of the panel discussion, and shared the recording link.

3. Ashland Sunrise Project - Getting Into Action (Tyler 5 min.)

[Here is a link to the Ashland Sunrise Project](#)

Tyler shared that the Ashland Sunrise Project will be asking residents to reflect on various locations in Ashland with the question of belonging in mind.

VI. New Business

VII. Ongoing or Future Items for Consideration

1. ELEA Working Group (Simon and Smith)

Nothing to report at this time.

2. Belonging Survey - Results, analysis, etc. (Smith - 30 minutes)

Smith provided an update on his progress in reviewing the Belonging Survey results. He ran an initial analysis with a focus on the open-ended questions, as the other questions are easier to interpret. His eight-page summary included initial reflections that the respondents were mostly female over 55, there was an apparent polarization regarding the issue of homelessness, and a desire for more diverse representation in local government. The committee discussed that results should focus on recommendations and would need to get back to Council.

3. Equitable Housing Plan Working Group

Nothing to report.

VIII. Announcements and Events

The committee discussed and decided to move the next meeting from April 2 to April 9, 2026 at Pioneer Hall.

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 to April 2, 2026 Meeting

SERJAC's next regular meeting will be on April 9, 2026 from 4:30-6:00PM at Pioneer Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5.58pm.

Immigration Resources

A Welcoming Community

Ashland is committed to being a welcoming and safe community for all, regardless of immigration status. We want community members to feel informed, understand their rights, and know where to access trusted resources.

Sanctuary and Inclusion

Ashland is committed to maintaining and defending its status as a sanctuary city—a safe and welcoming place for all residents. The City fully complies with Oregon’s Sanctuary Promise laws, which prohibit local law enforcement from using City resources to enforce federal immigration laws. If you have been a victim of or you have witnessed a crime, regardless of your immigration status, you are encouraged to contact the Ashland Police Department for help.

- Call 911 for help in emergencies.
 - For non-emergency situations, call police dispatch at 541-776-7206.
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Ashland’s Role in Immigration Enforcement

The Ashland Police Department does not ask about immigration status or assist with federal immigration enforcement unless legally required.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are not allowed access to non-public City spaces or documents without a federal judicial warrant. The Police Department does not act on ICE-issued administrative warrants.

To Report ICE Activity

Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) Hotline

HOTLINE: 1-888-622-1510

WEBSITE: <https://pircoregon.org/about/hotline>

PIRC works for immigrant justice in Oregon through rapid response, advocacy, and community organizing.

How to use the hotline:

Call for urgent situations:

- Suspected or confirmed ICE presence
- ICE detentions
- Missing loved ones

Text for non-urgent needs:

- Questions about resources (not needed within the next 24 hours)
- Photos of possible ICE activity (call first if urgent)

Email:

- Media inquiries: press@pircoregon.org
- Volunteer inquiries: volunteer@pircoregon.org
- General questions or donations: pircpdx@gmail.com
- Submit video footage (include date, time, and location): pircpdx@gmail.com

Stand with Our Neighbors

Northwest Seasonal Workers Association (NSWA)

A grassroots organization uniting seasonal and low-income workers—and their allies—to improve working and living conditions through collective action and self-help programs.

Website: <https://nswa-oregon.org>

Phone: 541-779-8144

Unete Oregon (NOWIA Unete)

A farmworker- and immigrant-led movement empowering communities through education, advocacy, and organizing to defend immigrant rights.

Website: <https://www.uneteoregon.org>

Phone: 541-841-8343

Coalición Fortaleza

A community-led movement born from the 2020 Almeda Fire, working to rebuild and empower Latinx and Indigenous communities in the Rogue Valley through housing justice, advocacy, and collective ownership.

Website: <https://coalicionfortaleza.org>

Phone: 541-292-1210

Report Violations of Oregon's Sanctuary Promise Laws

If you or someone you know may have been targeted in violation of Oregon's Sanctuary Promise laws, you can report it to the Oregon Department of Justice and receive support in the following ways:

Report Online:

- English: SanctuaryPromise.Oregon.gov
- Español: PromesaSantuario.Oregon.gov

Call the Sanctuary Promise Response Hotline:

- English: 1-844-924-STAY (1-844-924-7829)
- Español: 1-844-626-AMPARO (1-844-626-7276)

What to Expect:

- Report a suspected violation
- Receive support
- Get connected to helpful resources
- The Oregon Department of Justice may open an investigation

Hours:

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Pacific Time)

After hours: Leave a message and your call will be returned

Additional Support:

- Interpreters available in over 240 languages
 - All relay calls accepted
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Additional Immigration Resources

Equity Corps of Oregon (ECO)

Phone: 1-888-274-7292

Provides universal legal representation against deportation and civic exclusion to eligible immigrants in Oregon.

SOAR Immigration Legal Services

Phone: 503-384-2482

Provides culturally competent legal representation and education to low-income immigrants and refugees in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Contact Federal Representatives

Congressman Cliff Bentz

541-776-4646

bentz.house.gov

Senator Ron Wyden

541-858-5122

wyden.senate.gov

Senator Jeff Merkley

541-608-9102

merkley.senate.gov

