

**ASHLAND GENERAL
EARLY LEARNING AND AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AD-HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 3, 2025**

Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:04am

Members present: Lisa Verner, John Love, Lynn Ransford, Nancy Seward

Council liaison absent: Dylan Bloom

Staff liaison present: Kerrick Gooden

Guest: Anne Sebanc - Associate Director of Faculty Scholarship Development

1. Confirm quorum present

confirmed

2. Approval of draft minutes from 3.6.25 (see agenda packet)

Motion made to accept the minutes.

Motion: Love Second: Seward

Vote: all ayes Motion passed.

3. Suggested additions to today's agenda

4. Brief announcements

Budget constraints will likely prevent funding the City's childcare grant program for the next biennium.

II. Public Forum

Visitor Anne Sebanc, SOU administrator, attended at the request of SOU's Provost - introductions exchanged.

III. Continuation of Business from March Meeting

1. Final approval of article for the Southern Oregon Business Journal (see agenda packet)

The committee discussed final updates to the article.

Motion made to send the final version of the Southern Oregon Business Journal to City Council with a recommendation to publish. Motion: Verner; Second: Seward; Vote: All ayes - **motion passes**

2. Business engagement work plan (see agenda packet)

- Committee discussed the need to develop a questionnaire to assess local businesses' childcare needs.
- Goal is to develop a questionnaire and/or script so members are on the same page when approaching businesses.
- Goal to collect 25-35 responses (about 5 by each committee member) by end of summer.
- Committee discussed approaching Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and Kinwanis.
- Questions will aim to understand local impact of lack of childcare.
- Other programs discussed: <https://www.familiesfirstchildcarecenter.com/about> and <https://mitrishare.org/>

3. Cultivating future funding beyond June 2026

Providers were contacted suggesting letters of support for the committee to Council.

Discussion of other funding possibilities, such as an endowment or donor-advised fund such as through the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) - OCF will be invited to May 1 meeting.

Rogue Credit Union and SOU's Institute for Applied Sustainability are also willing to meet with the committee to discuss options. Other suggestions included approaching Mountain Meadows and/or Ashland Food Coop with their 'round-up' program.

IV. New Business

1. Revisiting committee's progress by priority (see agenda packet)

Committee discussed progress.

2. Presentation of progress report to City Council

Discussed logistics and how to prepare content for future presentation of progress report to Council - likely scheduled for sometime in July.

3. Items from committee members

V. Adjournment to May 1 Meeting

For next meeting:

- finalize work plan with list of businesses and information on what committee does with information received.
- meeting with the Oregon Community Foundation
- progress report can move until June meeting - John will suggest updates

Meeting Adjourned at 12:03pm