

**ASHLAND GENERAL  
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING  
MINUTES  
June 4, 2026**

Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way - 10:30 AM

These are DRAFT minutes until approved by the committee

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 10:32am

Present were Committee Members: John Love, Lisa Verner, Jessica Therkelsen, Anne Sebanc, Nancy Seward, and Paula Hyatt.

1. Confirmation of quorum present

Confirmed

2. Approval of draft minutes of 5/7/26 meeting (see agenda packet)

Love offered a correction under 'brief announcements': Change from Sebanc to Therkeslen (for who will reach out to Dee Ann Everson).

**Seward moved to approve minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Sebanc. All ayes. Motion passed.**

3. Suggested additions to today's agenda

None

4. Brief announcements

Seward mentioned OSF is in process of offering once-per-month childcare for attendees, called Family Nights, but childcare is still lacking/wanting for actors/employees - committee discussed.

**II. Public Forum**

None

**III. Continuation of Business from Previous Meetings**

1. Discussion of potential partnering with the Ashland Schools Foundation or Ashland Community Health Foundation
  - a. Strategies for proceeding
  - b. Impact on City's Childcare Affordability Grants
  - c. Fundraising strategies
    - i. Engaging local businesses
    - ii. Grants
    - iii. Other

Love introduced the topic regarding how this group might continue its work after sunseting as an ad-hoc advisory committee.

Hyatt spoke of a meeting with Deputy City Manager Rooklyn, Heidi Hill of the Ashland Family YMCA, and Joseph Hattrick of the Ashland School District regarding the potential to partner with the Ashland Schools Foundation (ASF). Discussion from that meeting included that a charter change would be needed for ASF to address pre-K childcare and that the ASF board decides funding allocations.

Love, Hyatt, and Sebanc met with staff from the Ashland Community Health Foundation (ACHF), who responded with excitement to partner. Reflections included clear alignment for promoting childcare for all ages, as they define health broadly (holistically). Avenues for partnership could include a fiscal sponsorship format (requires a 501c3) or a named fund that could be earmarked for an identified purpose with parameters. It was noted that Soroptimist is an example that has a named fund with

ACHF.

Love also reflected on meeting with the Oregon Community Foundation regarding donor-advised funds: there may be existing donor-advised funds that may be interested in supporting this work.

The committee reflected on compatibility with these organizations and considered the potential to draft a recommendation to Council for a gift agreement to a foundation with a portion of the remaining childcare grant funds when it reviews applications. If it decides to do so, this body would make a recommendation as a package to send to council for recommended allocations.

2. Approaching the Planning Commission about childcare in the Ashland Mills development.
3. Updating data on existing early learning/childcare slots in Ashland

#### **IV. Anticipation of July 2, 2026 Meeting**

The committee discussed difficulties related to the next scheduled July 2 regular meeting, the importance of reviewing grant applications received by the June 19th, 2026 deadline, and the importance of issuing a timely recommendation to Council regarding funding allocations for the Affordable Childcare Grant Program.

The committee decided to move its next meeting to June 30th, 2026 from 9:30-11am. Gooden reserved the Siskiyou Room and will offer Zoom attendance for maximum attendance as requested. Gooden will also secure a substitute staff liaison to attend in his absence.

1. Continue discussion of topics carrying over from today's agenda.
2. Suggestions for other topics.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:43am