



General Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND GENERAL

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING AGENDA

Thursday, September 3, 2026

10:30am - Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way

<https://zoom.us/j/94105992604>

I. Call to Order

1. Confirmation of quorum present
2. Approval of draft minutes of August 6, 2026 meeting (see agenda packet)
3. Suggested additions to today's agenda
4. Brief announcements
 - A. Introduction of ACHF Staff
 - B. Other?

II. Public Forum

III. Continuation of Business from Previous Meetings

1. Discussion of the process for the City of Ashland establishing the Ashland Affordable Childcare Fund with the Ashland Community Health Foundation with Stephanie Roland and Boone Kizer.
 - a. Including potential roles for citizen volunteers outside the committee purview to work with ACHF.
2. Approaching the Planning Commission about childcare in the Ashland Mills development.

IV. Anticipation of October 1, 2026 Meeting

1. Any needed follow-up on today's discussions
2. Updating data on existing early learning/childcare slots in Ashland
3. Suggestions for other topics

V. Adjournment

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, 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 GENERAL
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING
MINUTES**

August 6, 2026

Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way - 10:30am-12pm

Note: These are DRAFT minutes until approved by the committee.

I. Call to Order

Present were committee members Anne Sebanc (via Zoom), Lisa Verner, Jessica Therkelsen, Joanie Keller-Hand, and John Love.

Also present were council liaison Dylan Bloom and staff liaison Kerrick Gooden.

Community Development Director Brandon Goldman also delivered a memo towards the end of the meeting and answered brief questions.

The meeting was called to order at 10.33am.

1. Confirmation of quorum present

Confirmed

2. Approval of draft minutes of 6/4/26 and 6/30/26 meetings (see agenda packet)

Therkelsen moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on 6.4.26 with no corrections. Verner seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

Keller-Hand moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on 6.30.26 with no corrections. Verner seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

3. Suggested additions to today's agenda

4. Brief announcements

The committee discussed concerns with recent changes to Head Start, and considered the announcement of the recent charter formation for the Oregon Early Childhood Care and Learning System Roundtable. The committee suggested reaching out with work it has done and reflected on the decrease in childcare waitlist experienced locally.

II. Public Forum

None

III. Continuation of Business from Previous Meetings

1. Review of draft Council Communication Staff Report in support of our ACHF recommendation—all (see agenda packet)

The committee reviewed and discussed its proposed council communication, which outlines the committee's recommendation to direct the remaining \$30K of Affordable Childcare Grant funds to the Ashland Community Health Foundation (ACHF) to seed an ongoing named fund dedicated to supporting childcare options in Ashland. The committee reflected that the language feels clear and direct as-is; however, Love suggested the second paragraph on the second page should use 'consequently' instead of 'subsequently'.

The committee discussed the recommendation in general, and other ideas for how the group's work will continue after it sunsets as an ad-hoc advisory committee. Reflections included this final project was a good example of public-private cooperation to make something happen and keep it going. Once established, the recommended named fund would become part of ACHF's publicity efforts in promoting quality childcare as important to overall family health and wellbeing.

Hyatt, Love, and Sebanc plan to attend the council meeting along with Stephanie Roland with the ACHF to answer any questions.

2. Approaching the Planning Commission about childcare in the Ashland Mills development—Lisa (see agenda packet)

Verner clarified that childcare is now permitted outright in all zones, congruent with state law, with the recent passage of Ordinance 3296. Verner relayed that the Planning Commission may only be involved with commercial and mixed-use decisions in the future. The committee discussed suggested edits to the draft letter to the Planning Commission suggesting it consider plans to accommodate future childcare needs as part of the development proposal review.

Goldman arrived (from an impromptu invitation) and provided a memo to the committee (attached) explaining how childcare facilities are now permitted in all zones under Ordinance 3296, with the practical effect of fewer barriers to needed facilities. Goldman also explained that the Ashland Mills planning application has expired, so there is no current planning action under consideration, and an environmental remediation plan is still forthcoming for the site.

Verner will edit the draft letter and re-send it for committee review at the next meeting.

3. Updating data on existing early learning/childcare slots in Ashland—Nancy

The committee discussed the value of this and will review it at the next meeting when Seward can attend.

IV. Anticipation of September 3, 2026 Meeting

1. Discuss steps in setting up the ACHF named fund with Stephanie Roland

The committee discussed that it will know by the Sept. 3 meeting how the Council handled its recommendation. Once accepted by Council, staff will approach the City Attorney for advice on how to prepare the necessary legal agreement. The committee also discussed that it would need to decide on potential names for the named fund.

2. Revisit PC communications if necessary
3. Suggestions for other topics.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29am

Memo

DATE: August 8, 2023
TO: Child Care Ad-Hoc Committee
FROM: Brandon Goldman, Director of Community Development
RE: Childcare Facilities Now Permitted in All Zones Under Ordinance 3296

Ordinance 3296, adopted by the City Council at second reading on July 21, 2026, established the Manufactured Home Park Zone (MHPZ) and made several related updates to Title 18. One of those updates amended the allowed use table in AMC 18.2.2.030 to make Child Care Facilities a permitted use in every zone in the city, including all residential zones.

Under the prior code, childcare facilities were allowed in residential zones only through a Conditional Use Permit. That process added time, cost, and discretionary review to siting a facility in a residential neighborhood. The ordinance changed Child Care Facility from a conditional use to a permitted use in the residential zones (R-1, R-1-3.5, R-2, R-3, RR, and WR) and the new MHPZ. Childcare was already permitted outright in the commercial, employment, and industrial zones, so a facility is now an outright permitted use citywide.

Recent state law (HB 3560) required cities to allow childcare facilities in commercial zones and in zones that permit multifamily housing. Ashland went beyond that minimum and extended permitted status to the single-family residential zones as well. This was a deliberate local policy choice, not a state mandate.

The practical effect is fewer barriers to needed facilities. Providers no longer need a discretionary land use hearing to open a childcare facility in most neighborhoods, which shortens timelines and reduces uncertainty. Family Child Care Homes remain exempt from planning review under ORS 329A.440, and all facilities remain subject to state licensing. This change is a meaningful step forward for childcare access across Ashland.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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September 3, 2026

DRAFT 4

City of Ashland Planning Commission
c/o City of Ashland Community Development
51 Winburn Way
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Dear Planning Commission members,

On behalf of the City of Ashland's Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning, I am writing to ask that you consider the inclusion of childcare/early learning opportunities when you are reviewing and making decisions/recommendations on the new Ashland Mills (Croman Mills) development for the City when an application is submitted. Childcare is an economic development tool that is critical to our success as a city.

The Committee was formed in 2023 to address the childcare desert that is in Ashland. This means that there are fewer childcare slots than children whose families would like to use them. We believe the Planning Commission has a great opportunity to help alleviate this lack of brick-and-mortar facilities.

We ask that you discuss the following questions with Ashland Mills applicants who come before you in a public hearing or other review session:

1. Have you considered including space for a childcare facility within your development?
2. How does your project add to livability in Ashland, including having childcare facilities available to the community?
3. How will childcare needs of this new population be addressed? Have you analyzed the anticipated needs for childcare facilities and in-home childcare facilities?

More childcare openings across the city will help employers gain employees, will help employees continue to hold down and perform well in their jobs, and will strengthen the economic base of Ashland.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

John Love, Chair
City of Ashland Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning