

City of Ashland
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2024

Committee Members Present:

- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Debra Johnson, Vice Chair
- Jim Bachman, APRC Liaison
- Gina DuQuenne, Council Liaison
- Cori Frank
- Patty Winner
- John Engelhardt
- Noriko Toyokawa
- Barbara Talbert

Staff Present:

- Natalie Mettler
- Shannon Holt
- Rocky Houston

CALL TO ORDER

Gardiner called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

OPENING

Gardiner welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introduced Barbara Talbert as new member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Johnson/Gardiner m/s to approve the minutes from September 9, 2024. Voice vote – all AYES.
Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of New Officers

- Chair Gardiner will be transitioning to Parks Commission in January.
- Decisions for new officers will be made in January.

The following was covered in discussion:

- Helpful to have when terms ends on minutes.
- Elected officials cannot serve as voting/officers on advisory committees

PRESENTATION: Oregon Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative

Jennine Greenwell, Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist with Jackson County Health & Human Services

The following was covered in discussion:

- In 2015, Oregon Health Authority established Older Adult Behavioral Intuitive, which funds and supports 23 specialists in 36 counties within Oregon
- By 2034, adults 65 and older will outnumber children under 18
- 76k older adults have Alzheimer's/Dementia
- Evaluated by PSU, which is responsible for the website where resources are located
- PSU and OHSU recently opened Oregon Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health and Aging and received a \$1 million grant from Oregon Health Authority to address the needs of aging residents
- Part of the collaboration is working with the 8 Senior Centers within Jackson County
- Greenwell attends monthly meetings, along with partners in the community, for behavioral support to connect to resources and assist complex cases
- Hosts a Fall Prevention Event every year, the most successful as of this year
- Will be hosting a Healthy Brain and Aging class at the Ashland Senior Center in early 2025
- Has been holding Age Café in Central Point for the past year, to stimulate social connection

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Liaison – Commissioner Bachman

- APRC meetings will be in person moving forward
- Welcome back Gardiner to Parks Commission
- Dr. Weiner was recently elected as new Parks Commissioner

b. City Council Liaison – Councilor Gina DuQuenne

- Council will be thanking Council Member Hyatt for her service
- Welcoming Council Member Doug Knauer
- Topic in Study Session will be discussion of demographics of homelessness, which for age 55+ are mostly women

c. Education Report – Senior Services Coordinator Shannon Holt

- November 25 will be Thanksgiving Pie with Ashland Fire Fighter Union
- December 20 Holiday Party
- Healthy Brain and Aging with Jennine Greenwell - 5 classes starting in February
- Social engagement class offered by Debra Johnson starting March
- New music partnership with Valley Duo, starting with a performance in April
- Teaming up with Rogue Community Health pharmacists for presentation on medication management
- JCLS will be moving to every other month due to staffing limitation, will reassess for summer 2025

d. Senior Services Superintendent Report – Senior Services Superintendent Natalie Mettler

Mettler highlighted the following in her Superintendent's report:

- Hosting SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefit Assistants) more frequently for open enrollment
- Office Assistant DeSaram still continuing to offer UB customer service at Ashland Senior Center
- Coordinator Holt and Office Assistant DeSaram attended Vital Aging Conference in Medford on November 9
- Ashland Senior Center was recognized with Certificate of Appreciation from AARP Driver Safety for collaborating to host community classes

- Parks Director Houston added 2025 will be big push for strategic plan, which will include community surveys and focus groups to capture data to assess needs in the community

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

Livable Ashland Alliance:

- No updates

Noriko Toyokawa

- Toyokawa is teaching 3 different classes involving aging and/or intergenerational themes, at SOU

Next meeting – Monday, January 13, 2025 3:30-5:00pm in person

Adjournment – 4:54pm

Respectfully submitted by Shannon Holt, Senior Services Coordinator, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission