

City of Ashland
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
Sept 9, 2024

Committee Members Present:

- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Debra Johnson, Vice Chair
- Jim Bachman
- Cori Frank
- Patty Winner
- John Engelhardt

Committee Members Absent:

- Gina DuQuenne
- Noriko Toyokawa

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Johnson/Gardiner m/s to approve the minutes from July 8, 2024. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. APRC Levels of Service (APRC Director Rocky Houston)

- Director Houston is proposing a “Level of Service” model, as part of strategic planning. All Parks and Recreation Divisions are assessing their needs.
- Superintendent Mettler is researching other Senior Centers across the state to gain an idea of the standards for Level of Service.

The following was covered in discussion:

- Based on the analysis, will this guide the budget and the budget for the Senior Center?
Yes, depending on the data, it will dictate where money needs to be allocated.
- What is the timeline for the first level of analysis for Level of Service and how does it dovetail with the City’s budget process?
The process will take 12-18 months to complete, therefore it will not be ready for the upcoming Biennium.

b. 2025 meeting format to return to all in-person

All in favor of moving ASAC meetings to in-person.

c. New ASAC Member Recommendations

Chair Gardiner, Vice Chair Johnson and Superintendent Mettler interviewed 3 candidates. They are recommending that the APRC Commissioner appoint Barbara Talbert, Board President of Ashland at Home, at their next Business Meeting.

PRESENTATION: Alzheimer's Association, Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Becky Martin, Alzheimer's Association volunteer

The following was covered in discussion:

- Dementia Caregiver Group was started in Southern Oregon due to a need for a support group for caregivers.
- There is an online group and in-person group, both with about 12-18 participants.
- There is an educational segment, as well as mutual support among group members.
- Support groups are held either at the UCC Church in Ashland or online.
- Drop off programs for adult daycare would be great but require money and personnel.
- There is a great need for respite care facilities.

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Liaison – Commissioner Bachman

- Two ordinances will be going before the City Council that will impact APRC, including an ordinance about City Advisory Committees that will shape the Bylaws for APRC Advisory Committees, including the Trails Advisory Committee.
- Bachman has been meeting with Commissioner Adams, Mayor Graham and Councilor Hyatt to draft a framework to bring the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department into the Ashland municipal code by ordinance.
- Two Commissioner seats are up for election this year.

b. City Council Liaison – Councilor Gina DuQuenne

Not present.

c. Education Report – Senior Services Coordinator Shannon Holt

- Ice Cream Social was a success, serving approximately 100 community members.
- JCLS is now adding classes about how to use their digital resources. Next class will be about using streaming music services.
- Accessible Yoga was cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Will reassess in summer 2025.
- There has been interest from a few community members in teaching new classes or offering one-time events.
- Staff are finalizing the WinterSpring Program Guide.
- The popular Memoir class will be offered again during WinterSpring 2025.

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

Mettler highlighted the following in her Superintendent's report:

- End of fiscal year statics; this past year was our highest recorded for participation.

- Mettler is continuing to advocate for the return of a permanent office assistant position for the Senior Services Division.
- At the last meeting, the topic of searching for sponsors came up; staff are continuing to look for creative solutions.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

Nothing to report.

Next meeting – Monday, November 18, 3:30-5:00pm in person at Ashland Senior Center.

Adjournment – 4:38pm

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