

# **Letters to the Editor, Aug. 15**

## **Rebuild community trust**

It was slightly amusing and ironic to see three Ashland police enter the Ashland Parks Commission meeting last week as the commission was making a tragic decision to punk the Ashland Senior Center.

Rick Landt of the commission had just finished asking the overflow crowd to be respectful, and everyone was quietly taking in the board's decision that was fully disrespectful to the seniors, the center, the center staff and all of Ashland. I supposed the police presence was called to protect the board from some imagined disrespect from the overflow crowd. I only wish the police presence could have protected our community from the final decision of the park board. Over two meetings we watched five men make a mockery of community democracy. It is clear they had their minds made up before the meeting to follow their ill-formed recommendations and ignore the beautiful participation of so many parts of our community. We were united in support for the seniors, the center and asked the board to simply slow down their plans to allow for real community participation.

This Parks Commission needs to rebuild trust with the community. Reconsidering their decision would be a start.

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Ashland