

SPOKANE REGIONAL LAW AND JUSTICE COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

April 28, 2021 – 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Members	Present (Initial)	Absent/Excused/Proxy
Cary Driskell – Chair	P	
Mary Lou Johnson – Vice Chair	P	
Council President Breean Beggs	P	
Sheriff Knezovich	P	
Larry Haskell- <i>proxy</i>	P	Jim Kaufman
John Haley	P	
Judge Maryann Moreno	P	
John Dickson	P	
Karen Boone	P	
Judge Maurer	P	
Judge O’Sullivan	P	
Matt Harget	P	

Other Attendees	Organization	Email
Maggie Yates	Law & Justice	myates@spokanecounty.org
Candace Aguirre	Law & Justice	caguirre@spokanecounty.org
Curtis Hampton		
Jermaine Williams		
Liz Moore		
Rick Matters		
Tim Fitzgerald		
Kurtis Robinson		

Agenda:

1. Discuss potential options regarding the operating structure of SRLJC, whether in its current form or some modified or new version.
 - a. status quo (maintain current SRLJC structure with little or no changes); or
 - b. move forward with two committees:

1. modify the current structure to conform with RCW 72.09.300 in the nature of what is in Prosecutor Haskell's proposed resolution; and
 2. approve a new structure through an interlocal agreement pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW; would be negotiated between the regional partners in terms of scope of authority and membership.
 - c. any other options?
2. Next meeting is May 10, 2021, 4:15 - 5:15 pm, by Zoom.
 3. Public comment (up to ten minutes).
 4. Adjourn.

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Minutes:

Chair noted the presence of a quorum.

Judge Moreno requested recap of history of SRLJC before beginning the discussion, which was provided by Chair.

In brief the SRLJC was formed based upon the recommendation of the Blueprint for Reform, Dec. 2013. The statute RCW 72.09.300 provided the legal basis, and the County Commissioners passed an enabling resolution expanded the membership and authorized additional work beyond what was listed in the statute.

The Prosecutor has questioned whether the actions of the SLRJC were beyond the statutory authority.

The Blueprint for Reform authors did an update in Oct. 2020, noting among other things that the SRLJC was not meeting expectations suggesting a change might be needed in size and membership.

Prosecutor Haskell drafted a resolution to reform the SRLJC to a body strictly conforming to the statute in terms of membership and scope of work. That would remove numerous voices and limit reform efforts.

The proposal of the Chair and Vice-chair is to: 1) Modify the current structure to conform with RCW 72.09.300 in the nature of what is in Prosecutor Haskell's proposed resolution; and 2) Approve a new structure through an inter-local agreement pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW, that would be negotiated between the regional partners in terms of scope of authority and membership. Time is of the essence so the basis of the new structure could be the SRLJC and the inter-local agreement could flesh out the structure as time went on.

An attempt was made to have members rotate speaking so everyone could be heard.

Vice-Chair – supportive of the two committees

John Haley – expressed concerns that chapter 39.34 RCW would be used to build a new jail. Any committees definitely need community representation.

Sheriff – outlined history of SRLJC and expressed concern that the community corrections center is ready to be built but action is not being taken and he believes the funding could be there through the public safety sales tax. Sees professionals in triage who decide whether a person should be diverted to programming or into jail. This is building a system not a bigger jail. He supports two committees but believes the committee needs a budget.

Spokane City Council President Beggs – supportive of two committees but wants SRLJC to continue to function until inter-local forms substitute committee. Must have community members and specific goals. Can use Justice Task Force list of 20 proposals to start with.

Karen Boone supportive of using the inter-local agreement. Must maintain community involvement.

Judge Maurer – Expressed that SRLJC had been responsible for some good things but that it is being asked to do things that it just isn't created to do. We have reached its limits. Thus a two-entity system may be best. Community voices must be there. We can build a system that is better, more efficient and fairer.

Judge Moreno – Wants to get this issue resolved in order to move onto the critical work. Two councils may be the best idea. Concerned that Prosecutor Haskell's proposed resolution removes a focus on using data in making recommendations. Suggests there will be some crossover between the two committees.

John Haley – committee needs to have teeth, law behind it and a budget.

Mike Sparber could not attend but sent written comments generally supportive of a two-committee concept.

Community Input – Kurtis Robinson – need to ask why SRLJC didn't take the opportunity to do more than it did. He believes there were forces at work that didn't want it to work.

Chair proposed that Chair and Vice-Chair draft a recommendation to the SRLJC that supports the two committees. It would be circulated for discussion at the regular meeting of the Committee on May 10. There were no objections.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 10, 2021, 4:15 to 5:15 pm

Scribe: Mary Lou Johnson