

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Communications and Outreach Committee

August 26, 2015, 2:30 p.m. (phone conference)

In attendance: Beth Baker, Matt Dale, Andy Huff, John Bennion, Janice Doggett, Casey Stevenson, Patty Fain, Andrew King Ries, Christine Mandiloff, Michele Robinson, Amy Sings In The Timber, and Kate Kuykendall.

Amy moved to approve the minutes. Matt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Amy shared that this is her final week with the MJF. This will be her Commission-related meeting. She will be stepping down from the position of Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee. **Amy moved that Matt Dale step into the Chair position of the Policy & Resources Committee, and Melanie chair the Communications and Resources Committee. Beth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Beth shared that Justice Burke has agreed to join the ATJC at its meeting on September 23rd. He will share his experience with a legislative campaign for access to justice funding in Wyoming.

Patty has identified potential dates and sites for Kalispell in October, and Matt has identified potential sites in Great Falls. Beth's intern has supplied a draft Op Ed piece for the Committee's review.

Beth noted that it will be important to talk about the listening tour at the next ATJC meeting. It will be important to have Commissioners attend the meetings. Members of the Court are willing to attend. We will need to nail down dates and locations.

Matt asked to identify dates for October and November. Beth said that we know we have the 21st of October in Kalispell, based on Patty's information. The Committee didn't identify any conflicts with October 21st. **The Kalispell event will take place October 21st.** Matt suggested that if we are able to keep some consistency to the day of the week, it might be helpful. November 18th is a Wednesday, and Matt has identified a space for that date. **The Great Falls event will take place November 18th.**

Matt noted that Patty has identified Crowley Fleck as a sponsor for the Kalispell event. The Committee discussed its approach to sponsorships for the entire series. Patty noted that we need to be able to tell sponsors what their money will be used for. Amy said that when she and Janice talked, they had considered listing items sponsorship dollars can be used for. She noted that it seems easier to ask for sponsorships at certain levels rather than seeking sponsorships for specific items. She agreed that it will be important to articulate what funds may cover. Crowley has indicated they may sponsor the Kalispell event, and that we should tell them what the event will cost.

Beth said it might be best to say we will seek sponsors for each community, and based on our expectations of the event in each community, we'll identify costs and necessary sponsorship levels. We may also have overall costs, for example, costs for printing materials used at all of the sessions.

Matt asked if we want to decide this among the full group, or if we want to decide this among fewer people. Patty shared that last time we didn't really have a sponsorship plan. Logistically speaking, we can bring our own refreshments to the venue in Kalispell. Other times we have to have refreshments catered. It can be simple, or difficult. If there's someone locally that can put together a few trays of cookies and bottled water, juice, and coffee, it's helpful. It would be fine for someone on this committee to take on each community.

Beth said that the easiest tactic might be to assign people from our group to take care of each committee. We don't need to decide how the lemonade gets there, but we need to know it's happening. If the community is your assignment, you decide how refreshments happen, where the venue is, who and what the sponsorships look like. Matt agreed, but noted that we need the group to decide whether we're looking for sponsorships for particular items. Are we asking for money to print materials? Cover travel stipends? Or just to cover refreshments? Patty agreed that we can use sponsorships to cover more critical items in the future. Beth said that we may run into difficulty if we're going to a community where none of our Commissioners live and they don't want to bear the travel expense.

Amy shared that she, Janice, and Melanie Reynolds talked about sponsorships at two tiers, at \$500 and \$250 for general expenses. We know there might be vendors who might contribute particular items. They developed a list of who would be good potential general sponsors to talk to. Melanie let us know that Northwestern Energy was excited to be a general sponsor. There is some benefit to having the business side of things associated with an interest. Others that were mentioned were banks, the MT Healthcare Foundation, Washington Corp., Mako, MNA, AARP, the State Bar, etc.

Beth said that maybe we can't contact all of these entities for sponsorships. Having them appear would be very useful. It can be done on a community-by-community basis. We need a task list to say what we need to do to have these meetings, and then assign tasks. We need to list it all out first. Matt agreed, noting that Patty has the list from last time. Melanie knows the CEO of Northwest Energy well, and it might be a good benefit for little work. Matt, Janice, Patty, and Kate can take on the drafting of this list.

Beth asked Patty to take the lead on discussing what assignments need to be made. Patty said that in the end, the keys are the people who attend and the people who present. Statewide organizations may choose to have a representative there at each session. The more we can set dates at once, the better. We need to be getting these on the calendars of the people we want to be there right now. We're approaching the six-week mark on the first session. We need to identify our crowd, our speakers, and create a master list with personal contacts.

Patty suggested setting up something in google docs to house our master documents for each session. We'll have a lot of people working on each of these, and email will be difficult.

Beth suggested forming a small group consisting mainly of the staff of the court, the bar, and others to develop a prototype of how to get this rolling. The group would be in charge of the first forum. We have at least the months set out for our overall schedule. That can be worked with in terms of notifying the service providers. It needs to be done by a few people working together, and perhaps contacting

the Committee for assistance with specific things. **Patty, Lisa, Matt, and someone from Montana Legal Services Association will serve as the core of the working Committee. The State Bar's new Equal Justice Coordinator can step on when she's on board. Janice will contribute as she's able, and will help transition the person from the State Bar. Matt will spearhead this effort. Christine will serve as the MLSA representative until further notice.**

Beth asked the Committee to discuss what should be covered at the upcoming ATJC meeting. Are there questions we should try to answer? Are there particular topics we need to discuss? There may be a video, and Justice Burke will talk about his experience.

Matt asked for anyone with experience planning statewide events to please share their lessons. Janice noted that it's important to notify the county commissioners.

Kate will send the draft Op Ed to Joe Menden at the bar for his feedback. Committee members will send feedback to Kate, who will compile suggestions and send them to the Committee by email. Patty asked if someone is issuing a press release. Beth said the Court can issue one, and that she will seek help in drafting it.

The ATJC meeting should include identifying Commissioners who agree to be in attendance at the first two listening sessions. Justice Burke has agreed to talk with anyone who wants his input. He will visit the Court on September 22nd. The 23rd is the ATJC meeting starting at noon. Wednesday morning will be open for him. He flies home Wednesday around six p.m. **The Committee members who are in Helena will meet with him Tuesday afternoon around 2:00 p.m. They can use the lawyer's lounge. Matt will coordinate the meeting with Beth and Justice Burke.** Michele volunteered to come Helena and meet with Justice Burke.

The Committee will keep its next standing meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th, at 2:30 p.m.

Beth thanked Amy for her contributions to the effort and contributions over the years. **Matt moved to adjourn. Michele seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned: 3:29 p.m.**

Updated Tour Schedule:

October 21st, 2015 – Kalispell – Patty

November 18th, 2015 – Great Falls – w/Tribal satellite Matt

March 2016 – Billings – w/Tribal satellite -- Patty (Beth will contact Judge Carter)

April 2016 – Missoula – w/Tribal satellite – Lisa

May 2016 – Bozeman – Jennifer B.

September 2015 – Butte – Michele R.

October 2016 – Helena – Melanie