



**Law and Justice Council of Thurston County  
Thurston County Courthouse Building 1 Room 280  
Minutes Thursday April 19, 2018**

- I. **Welcome & Introductions** – Patrick O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm, welcome and introduction were made. (a sign in sheet is on record)
- II. The minutes from the January 18, 2018 were approved.
- III. **New Court House:**
  - a. Thurston County Superior Court Judge Carol Murphy presented a power point, titled New County Courthouse. She went over many safety concerns of the current buildings. Judge Murphy also gave a couple examples of positive additions of what could be offered at the court house if there was more space, one example, an on sight daycare center. She mentioned based on the feasibility study, a remodel of the current courthouse is not a financially feasible option. A copy of the power point is on record.
  - b. Thurston County Special Project Coordinator Rick Thomas spoke to the group. He mentioned in addition to the current space we have, we need approximately 100,000 more square footage. The next step is to communicate/outreach plan. The first part of May the County commissioners will be meeting with the City of Olympia. A sight selection committee was formed, and has presented 12 potential locations. The number of proposed sights will be narrowed down soon. There is a Community Advocacy Committee currently in the process of being formed, if you are interested in participating see Meghan Porter.
  - c. Thurston County District Court Judge Brett Buckley spoke to the group, he mentioned back in 2004 the county ran a ballot initiative for a new court house, it failed. He went over many reasons a new court house is needed, including but limited to: no confidential meeting space for clients and their attorneys, roof leaks, facilities are not user friendly for those with disabilities, there are not enough court rooms, and safety for all is a concern. Judge Buckley also mentioned part of the goal is to make the new facility a good partner in the community, a couple suggested examples are the new project could bring a parking garage to downtown Olympia, which is needed, and there could be a roof top park, accessible to the public.
  - d. After the three speakers were finished there was a question and answer time, which lasted 20 minutes. It was mentioned the name of this project is the Thurston County Courthouse and Civic Center. The project committee is open to partnerships with organizations that might benefit being collocated at the county court house.



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**IV. Review of Charter:**

- a. Copies of the Charter were passed around, and is on record. Everyone was asked to review before the July 19 meeting which time will be set aside to discuss.

**V. Adjourned – with no further business, Patrick O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 5:50 pm.**

**Remaining 2018 Meeting Dates**

July 19

October 18

Please Note: All minutes & materials from the Law and Justice Council meetings can be found online. [www.co.thurston.wa.us](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us)  
Under the heading: Commissioners (at top of page, click on commissioners) left hand side, scroll down to Law and Justice Council, click on it.

**ALL HANDOUTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE**