

Radford University/Radford City Joint Commission Minutes

The Hub on East Main Street
April 8, 2025 @ 8:30 am

Attendees: Kellie Artip, Ben Bondurant, Kelsi Jones, Angela Joyner, David Perryman, Craig Meadows, Jerry Holdaway, Dan McKinney, Melissa Skelton, Bethany Usher, Susan Trageser, Jenni Webb and Nichole Hair. Rob Hoover and Lisa Ghidotti appeared by Zoom.

The meeting agenda is created by the Commission members and designed to create an opportunity to discuss collaborative initiatives, learn about specific topics and/or areas of interest, and develop relevant action plans as needed.

I. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Co-chairs, Angela Joyner and Kellie Artip, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. East Main Street project update

Angela Joyner updated the members about the East Main Street storefront project that is in the works with Radford University students, Taylor Hollow Construction, Radford Economic Development and Radford Chamber of Commerce. This project helps support a recommendation from DHCD study of East Main Street. Radford University design students, under the direction of Laura Kimball, developed restaurant and retail concepts for properties on East Main. A reception showcased these designs with a second round of retail concepts scheduled for later this month. Council members were encouraged to view the project firsthand and will receive an invitation. **ACTION ITEM: Angela Joyner - Forward invitation to view collection of designs and have project shared at future City Council meeting**

III. Student housing update

Radford University hosted a student housing roundtable with local property managers. Susan Trageser reported on discussions with local property managers regarding student housing. Due to strong enrollment and retention rates, approximately 300 upperclassmen will need off-campus housing. A housing fair will be held on April 16th at noon – 1:30 pm on the Bonnie Plaza.

ACTION ITEM: Angela - Presentation to Joint Commission members will be shared at the May 13th meeting

IV. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) process

Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) between the City of Radford and Radford University are being developed. The Highlander Festival and Community Fest agreements will be the first agreements to go through the collaboratively developed process. A joint committee will work together to develop the MOA's and share with Joint Commission.

Members of the committee will be Tricia Smith, Susan Trageser, Angela Joyner, Kellie Artrip, Melissa Skelton, Jenni Webb and Nichole Hair. The Highlander Festival is scheduled for September 13th. Homecoming is scheduled for October 9 - 11. A meeting will be coordinated with the committee to develop MOAs and processes.

ACTION ITEM: Susan Trageser – Joint Commission will be updated at the next meeting scheduled for May 13th.

V. City Budget & University Implications/opportunities

Interim City Manager Craig Meadows outlined the city's current budget. He mentioned an increase in energy bills, revenue projections and other factors have contributed to the current budget. Several proposed actions including tax increases, budget cuts, hiring freezes and increasing rates for services are some of the tactics under consideration. A public budget hearing is scheduled for next Monday, April 14th at 6 pm with a second budget reading planned for April 21st.

VI. General Discussion

The group discussed opportunities to continue to partner together, work creatively on identifying solutions and sharing how each partner is currently supporting each other (financially, projects, volunteerism, economic impact, employment, housing). Citizens may be unaware of the university's contributions. All agreed that the success of both the university and the city is interconnected, and the importance of community engagement in the university's strategic planning was emphasized. It was added that the success of both the university and the city is interconnected, and the importance of community engagement in the university's strategic planning was emphasized.

A request was made to compile a list of sponsorship opportunities that can be shown to support programming and current and future initiatives. Various ideas were discussed for sponsorships of community events.

ACTION ITEM: Jenni Webb/Dan McKinney – Send out potential sponsorship opportunities from city (ads, banners)

VII. Blue Ridge Outdoors' Top Adventure College's Tournament

Members discussed that Radford University is participating in the Top Adventure School through Blue Ridge Outdoors and members were encouraged to vote to increase the university's visibility. After vanquishing University of Tennessee - Chattanooga in the opening Round of 32 of [Blue Ridge Outdoors' Top Adventure College's Tournament](#), Radford University (led by our intrepid Rec and Wellness team) has advanced to the Savory 16, where we face Virginia Tech. There's no time to savor the sweet first-round victory. It's the Highlanders vs. the Hokies, with the winner advancing to the Exquisite 8, and the loser going home.

Be sure to cast your vote by April 15.

City Representatives

- Kellie Artrip – Radford City Council Member
- Craig Meadows – Interim City Manager
- Jerry Holdaway – Radford City Chief of Police
- Dan McKinney – Executive Director, Radford Chamber of Commerce

- Kim Repass – Director of Economic Development & Director of Tourism
- Jenni Webb – Director of Communications and City Clerk
- Melissa Skelton – Director of Planning and Zoning
- Ben Bondurant - Real Estate Rep and Developer
- Kelsi Jones – Owner of BT's Restaurant

University Representatives

- Susan Trageser - Vice President for Student Affairs
- Angela Joyner – Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
- Bethany Usher – Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Rob Hoover – Vice President for Finance and Administration
- Eric Plummer – Assistant VP for Public Safety
- Lisa Ghidotti – Executive Director of Governmental Relations and Strategic Initiatives
- Nichole Hair – Director of Economic Development and Community Engagement
- David Perryman – Associate Vice President for Strategic Communications

Calendar updates

- Traditions Week (April 7 – 11)
- Highlander Day (April 12)
- “Just in Time” Career Fair (April 14 @ 4 – 6 pm – Artis Center)
- Wicked Festival (April 15 @ 5-7:30 pm - Artis Center)
- Tech/IT Leaders’ Summit (April 15 @ 8:30 am - HUB)
- Housing Fair (April 16 @ noon – 1:30 pm-Bonnie Plaza)
- Open House (April 18)
- Provost’s Speaker Series on Earth Day (April 22 @ 7-8 pm-Taubman Museum) [A Picture of Health: How We Can Create Thriving Communities Together](#)
- Talent Connect Summit (April 24 @ 4 – 8 pm-HUB)
- SCHEV visit (April 25)
- Spring Commencement (May 9 – 10)
- Highlander Festival (September 13)
- Homecoming (October 9 – 11)