

Radford University/Radford City Joint Commission Minutes

The Hub on East Main Street
June 10, 2025 @ 8:30 am

Attendees: Kellie Artip, Craig Meadows, Kelsi Jones, Angela Joyner, Eric Plummer, David Perryman, Craig Meadows, Jerry Holdaway, Dan McKinney, Melissa Skelton, Jenni Webb, Nichole Hair and Lisa Ghidotti.

I. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Co-chairs, Angela Joyner and Kellie Artrip, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Governor's School

Radford University hosts two summer governor's schools each year. Arts and Humanities and health sciences here at main campus. Radford University started hosting the Health Sciences one up in Roanoke a couple years ago. There are approximately 24 students that attend that governor's school. RU is also partners with Fralin Medical and other folks in that region. Students get full-on experience at that school. A proposal is going to be presented to the Board of Education sometime this summer to propose a Governor's School for Arts and Humanities for the New River Valley on the Radford University campus. There have been previous conversations with the former superintendent and letters of support have been received from local businesses.

School system partners would be Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski and Radford City schools. Support has been expressed across the school districts. Disciplinary tracks would be art and design, music and theater, dance and theater and then with the humanities, history and storytelling, politics, and world affairs, philosophy and critical thinking.

This would be an opportunity for us to have an extended governor school and it fits with the overall strategy.

III. Congressman Morgan Griffith luncheon

Next Tuesday, June 17th, Congressman Morgan Griffith will be here for a luncheon at the Highlander Hotel. Joint Commission and City council are invited. Members present were asked to RSVP if they have not already done so. Congressman Morgan Griffith will be talking about what is happening in Washington DC and how it impacts Southwest Virginia. The event begins at 11:15 am on June 17 and ends at 1 pm.

IV. Strategic framework

A brief overview of a strategic framework and updates to the charter and work plan were shared, with feedback sought from the group. The discussion included the introduction of new projects that may need to be incorporated into the framework.

Various challenges and opportunities for Radford were outlined, focusing on the influx of people moving to smaller towns and the implications for housing and broadband. The discussion included leveraging university resources for economic growth, community engagement, and sustainability efforts. Contributions were made to explore potential grants and incentive programs to support local businesses and development initiatives.

A question was raised regarding the city's plans for Virginia 250. Ideas for community engagement were explored, including a speaker series and the installation of historical markers along the new river recreation corridor to enhance public awareness and interest.

Opportunities for enhancing local tourism were outlined through projects like the trail connection and community events, drawing inspiration from successful races in other cities. A promotional video and an upcoming feature in Blue Ridge Outdoors were discussed as potential tools to help market Radford. The discussion also included ideas for small business support and collaborative grant writing to drive funding for community initiatives.

V. CoWorks @the HUB

Nichole Hair updated the members regarding CoWorks @the HUB's recent opening. She shared with the commission that complimentary passes are available in June for anyone wanting to come in and try it out.

ACTION ITEM: Share LinkedIn post with City – Nichole Hair

VI. Summer schedule

- Quest 2025
 - June 23 – June 24, 2025
 - June 27 – 28, 2025
 - July 11 – 12, 2025
- Fourth of July fireworks (July 3@ Glencoe Museum)
- Summer at SELU (open to the public)
 - June 29 @ 1 – 8 pm
 - July 11 @ 11 – 1:30 pm
 - July 22 @ 11 – 1:30 pm
 - August 9 @ 7 am – 1 pm
- Radford Community Fest (August 23)
- RU Family and Friends Weekend (September 26)
- Homecoming and Highlander Festival (October 11)

VII. Member Updates

- Relevant updates related to work and initiatives in area/role

City Representatives

- Kellie Artrip – Radford City Council Member
- Craig Meadows – Interim City Manager

- Todd Meredith, new City Manager, will be starting on July 21st and will be in place at the next meeting
- Jerry Holdaway – Radford City Chief of Police
 - Announced community satisfaction for the police department is 85%
- 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
 - Regional opportunity grant meeting in June for \$25000 for broadband access
- Melissa Skelton – Director of Planning and Zoning
 - Regional Commission is doing updates of regional housing study and regional transit study
 - Glades, newest subdivision in West end Radford, is renewing the zoning ordinance
- Ben Bondurant - Real Estate Rep and Developer
- Kelsi Jones – Owner of BT's Restaurant
 - Wine tasting July 30 @ 6 pm

University Representatives

- Susan Trageser- Vice President for Student Affairs
- Angela Joyner – Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
 - Certification Center has assisted in tests for secret service, real estate and a few others which means people coming into the community
 - Next Joint Commission meeting will be on August 12, 2025 at 8:30 am
- 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
 - Calea – received 100%
 - Meeting with FEMA – leading discussion on common dealing with threats
- Lisa Ghidotti – Executive Director of Governmental Relations and Strategic Initiatives
 - Congressman Morgan Griffith visiting Tuesday, June 17
 - Boys' State week of June 16 - 22
- Nichole Hair – Director of Economic Development and Community Engagement
 - Participating in Rural Leadership in Rural Virginia and will be working on community impact project and may be contacting others to assist
- David Perryman – Associate Vice President of Strategic Communications
 - Hosting college communicators conference on Friday – representatives from Virginia Tech and Northern Virginia and other areas will be in town. This first time event is being held in Artis Center.