

Radford University/Radford City Joint Commission Minutes

The Hub on East Main Street
August 12, 2025 @ 8:30 am

Attendees: Kellie Artip, Ben Bondurant, Kelsi Jones, Angela Joyner, David Perryman, Jerry Holdaway, Susan Trageser, Trisha Smith, Dan McKinney, Melissa Skelton, and Nichole Hair. David Perryman, Rob Hoover and Bethany Usher appeared via Zoom.

I. Welcome

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

II. Radford Community Fest update

Melissa Skelton and Trisha Smith shared a presentation about Radford Community Fest, scheduled for August 23, 2025, 11 am – 6 pm. It was shared that 108 vendors are participating, an increase from 70 last year. Adjustments to the event's schedule and layout were mentioned based on feedback from last year. The changes aim to improve accessibility and engagement for attendees.

Updates on advertising strategies were shared, including partnership with WSLs for a scavenger hunt in the Blue Ridge Games, sponsored by Blue Ridge Outdoors. The Radford Community Fest has experienced impressive engagement on the website, with users spending an average of six minutes per session. A half-page ad was placed in the August issue of Blue Ridge Outdoors.

III. Provost Faculty Speaker Series

Bethany Usher discussed the need to enhance community engagement through a revamped Provost Faculty Speaker Series. Suggestions for partnerships with local venues were given for hosting events. The plan involves featuring faculty speakers in a more informal setting, with provisions for snacks and drinks. A few venues and formats were discussed while a proposal was made to include musical elements to enrich the events.

ACTION: Bethany Usher will meet with David Perryman to come up with a communication plan and then share with Joint Commission.

IV. Housing Strategy update

Rob Hoover gave an update on housing and renovation plans for Tyler and Norwood Halls at Radford University. Tyler is not expected to be completed until next fall. Muse Hall will accommodate approximately 200 students this fall, despite plans to take it offline next fall. Additionally, major renovations for Dalton Hall are set to begin in Spring 2027.

Challenges faced by property managers in adjusting to the current housing demand and the need for better communication with students regarding their housing options was also discussed.

V. New Parking processes

Radford University's new parking process was explained to the group. Individual paper passes are no longer needed. The new procedure allows for digital passes to be entered into the system. Anyone attending a meeting or event on campus will need to provide their tag number.

VI. Member Updates

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

City Representatives

- Kellie Artrip – Radford City Council Member
 - New City Manager Todd Meredith began work
 - Jenni Webb has left employment at the City
 - Melissa Skelton was named Interim City Clerk
- Todd Meredith – City Manager
- Jerry Holdaway – Radford City Chief of Police
 - Night Out event went well, and they enjoyed getting out in the community
 - Participating in mitigation program with police and repeat offenders
- Dan McKinney – Executive Director, Radford Chamber of Commerce
 - Halloween Treat Trail 10/30/25
- Kim Repass – Director of Economic Development & Director of Tourism
- Melissa Skelton – Director of Planning and Zoning and Interim City Clerk
 - Regional Commission is kicking off study this fall
- Ben Bondurant - Real Estate Rep and Developer
- Kelsi Jones – Owner of BT's Restaurant

University Representatives

- Susan Trageser- Vice President for Student Affairs
 - Students moving in 8/15 – 8/22/2025
- 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

Upcoming dates:

- RU Strategic Plan Town Hall (August 12)
- RU Strategic Plan Town Hall-RUC (August 13)
- RU Movie on Moffett (August 22)

- Radford Community Fest (August 23)
- RU Classes begin (August 25)
- Labor Day Holiday (September 1)
- Radford University Night at the Party in Elmwood (September 4)
- Fall Into the New (September 6)
- Radford City Council (September 8)
- Radford University Board of Visitors (September 11-12)
- BioBlitz at SELU Conservancy (September 12-13)
- Radford City Chamber 5 After 5 Networking Event (September 16)
- Radford University Fall Career Fair (September 18)
- Radford City Council (September 22)
- Family and Friends Weekend (September 26 – 28)
- Radford City Chamber 5 After 5 Networking Event (October 7)
- Radford Highlanders Festival (October 11)
- Radford City Council (October 13)
- Radford City Council (October 27)
- RBTC / IMPACT Emerging Tech Conference (October 30-31)