

Radford University/Radford City Joint Commission Minutes

**The Hub on East Main Street
September 9, 2025 @ 8:30 am**

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.

Attendees: Kellie Artip, Ben Bondurant, Angela Joyner, Susan Trageser, Lisa Ghidotti, Nichole Hair, Eric Plummer, Bethany Usher, Dan McKinney, Melissa Skelton, Todd Meredith, Sgt. Emily Hite, Kim Repass, Rob Hoover. David Perryman appeared via Zoom.

I. Welcome

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

II. Unhoused population in Radford

The effects of the increasing unhoused population on Radford University were highlighted, particularly regarding safety and community perception.

Insights were shared on the Homeless Outreach Team's efforts and the challenges faced in providing adequate resources and housing for the community, noting the fluctuating population dynamics.

The Wicked Festival at Radford University was discussed as a place to get faculty and students involved in researching and identifying potential solutions to complement current efforts. A suggestion was made to expand representation of existing workgroups to include appropriate university members. The discussion also touched on potential alternative locations for housing initiatives and learning about best practices from other municipalities across the states.

III. Amphitheater update

The group was updated on the amphitheater project. The project has been approved to move forward to the next phase which would be an RFP for detailed planning. The workgroup will reconvene in October to discuss programming and planning next steps.

Strategic plan update

Additionally, it was noted that the university is finalizing its strategic plan, which incorporates community engagement and aims to enhance experiential learning for students. A draft of the plan will be submitted to the board in December.

The team was thanked for the presentation to city council, with feedback indicating a lack of awareness about public events and free parking. A commitment was made to enhance communication and ensure that council members receive necessary information. The importance of aligning city communications with Radford University was emphasized.

IV. Member Updates

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

City Representatives

- Kellie Artrip – Radford City Council Member
- Todd Meredith – City Manager
 - Working on repairs in Bissett Park
 - Internal work – organized, cultured, effective and efficient
- Emily Hite on behalf of Jerry Holdaway – Radford City Chief of Police
 - September is Campus Safety Preparedness month
- Dan McKinney – Executive Director, Radford Chamber of Commerce
 - Chamber member directory is in the works on website
 - Radford Treat Trail is October 30th
- Kim Repass – Director of Economic Development & Director of Tourism
 - Progress is being made on foundry project
- Melissa Skelton – Director of Planning and Zoning and Interim City Clerk
 - Transit will be relocated in January 2026
- Ben Bondurant - Real Estate Rep and Developer
 - Scouts raised \$2000 at Radford Community Fest
- Kelsi Jones – Owner of BT's Restaurant

University Representatives

- Susan Trageser- Vice President for Student Affairs
 - RU Tartan 5K is scheduled for September 19, 2025
- Angela Joyner – Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
- Bethany Usher – Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - Student census was shared with increased enrollment of 7,837
 - Rachel Williams, new Dean of College of Visual and Performing Arts
 - Provost speaker series will begin September 24th at Arabica Coffee
- Rob Hoover – Vice President for Finance and Administration
 - Athletics is working on licensing to serve alcohol and upgrading Dedmon
 - Renovations will take 12 months in Dalton Hall and moving dining services to Muse
 - Community parking is across street from HUB and pocket park above – ideas should be shared
- 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
 - Career Expo (September 18)
 - Talent Connect Summit (September 30)

Upcoming dates:

- 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 University Tartan 5K (September 19)
- 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)
- Radford Chamber Business over Breakfast @ the HUB (November 5)