

**Radford University/Radford City Joint Commission
Minutes**

**The Hub on East Main Street
January 13, 2026 @ 8:45 am**

Attendees: Kellie Artrip, Kelsi Jones, Angela Joyner, Susan Trageser, Jerry Holdaway, Kim Repass, Rob Hoover, Melissa Skelton, and Nichole Hair. Lisa Ghidotti and David Perryman 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 Artrip, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Master Agreement (MOU)

Angela Joyner stated that Highlander Festival is set for the second weekend in October. A committee will reconvene within two weeks to finalize an updated Memorandum of Understanding and establish a master agreement with the city for collaborative projects. There was also a discussion about the need for city representation on the committee following Dan McKinney's retirement. A Memorandum of Understanding for Radford Community Fest will be circulated within the next two weeks. Once the MOU is drafted the committee will meet and review any changes needed for the Community Fest.

ACTION ITEM: Angela Joyner – set up Highlander Festival date.

ACTION ITEM: Angela Joyner, Todd Meredith and Melissa Skelton - draft Master Agreement/MOU

III. CoGen project & campus projects

Rob Hoover presented a comprehensive update on the CoGen project, which aims to convert excess steam into energy, thereby reducing waste in electrical production. The construction is expected to be completed by October 1, 2026, with operations expected in early 2027. Negotiations for an interconnect agreement with the city and the purchase of transformers for campus service are ongoing. Rob Hoover assured that any savings from the project would be reinvested into campus infrastructure and mutually beneficial initiatives for the university and the city. The dollar amount has not yet been identified nor the specific initiatives yet.

Renovation plans for Dalton were discussed, with the main dining facilities set to relocate to the lower level of Muse Hall, and construction expected to start soon, aiming for a reopening in spring 2029. The architect for the project is Baskerville from Richmond. Additionally, the Buchanan House is slated for demolition due to its poor condition.

Rob Hoover added that the project across from the HUB should be completed by spring and will include laying slabs for picnic tables and landscaping.

IV. Branding update

Branding efforts were outlined by David Perryman with Radford University's Strategic Marketing and Communications division, including collaboration with Rob Hoover's team for light pole banners and a phased approach to branding rollout, aiming for completion by June 1. Plans for co-branding design efforts with the city were discussed, along with the need for a comprehensive sponsorship approach.

V. City of Radford building update

The group also discussed various local developments, including the sale of the old Applebee's building and upcoming events like the Martin Luther King's Day of Service and the Polar Plunge, emphasizing community engagement and student involvement.

VI. Member updates:

City Representatives

- Kellie Artrip – Radford City Council Member
 - Radford Chamber's Annual Meeting & Gala is scheduled for February 6
- Todd Meredith – City Manager
- Jerry Holdaway – Radford City Chief of Police
 - Salary adjustments for the police department were mentioned in order to positively impact officer retention and morale
- Dan McKinney – Executive Director, Radford Chamber of Commerce
- Kim Repass – Director of Economic Development & Director of Tourism
 - Radford's Polar Plunge is scheduled for February 14th
 - Foundry project is progressing with asphalt removal and further improvements
- Melissa Skelton – Director of Planning and Zoning
 - Ongoing transition to a new transit route and challenges faced with updating the website for accurate route information
- 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
 - Radford University's Strategic Plan Launch is scheduled for January 23, 2026 at 9 am in Covington Auditorium with a reception to follow
- Bethany Usher – Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Rob Hoover – Vice President for Finance and Administration
- Eric Plummer – Chief of Police for Radford University
- Lisa Ghidotti – Assistant Vice President for Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives
- Nichole Hair – Director of Economic Development and Community Engagement
- David Perryman – Associate Vice President for Strategic Communications

Calendar updates

- City Council Meeting – January 12 & January 26 @ 7 pm
- Radford University Women's Basketball (Dedmon Center) – January 14 & January 21 @ 7 pm
- Radford University Men's Basketball (Dedmon Center) – February 4
- Radford University Spring Career Fair (Kyle Hall 340) – February 5 – 4 pm – 6 pm
- Radford Chamber of Commerce 2026 Annual Meeting & Gala – February 6 @ 6 -9:30 pm
- Radford Chamber Polar Plunge – February 14
- Rad Talks – February 17 – Speaker Rob Warren – Radford Public Library
- Radford University Education Career Fair – Student Recreation and Wellness Center – February 20, 10 am – 3 pm