

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

**The Hub on East Main Street
April 14, 2026 @ 8:45 am**

Attendees: Kellie Artip, Kelsi Jones, Angela Joyner, Bethany Usher, Lisa Ghidotti, Jerry Holdaway, Rob Hoover, Sarah Turpin, Susan Trageser, David Perryman, Melissa Skelton, Todd Meredith, Tricia Smith, Ben Bondurant and Eric Plummer. Nichole Hair appeared via 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. Quest discussion

Provost Usher shared upcoming dates for the Quest orientation sessions for Radford University's incoming student cohort. The group engaged in a broader discussion regarding opportunities for community participation and engagement during these sessions.

Upcoming Quest (orientation) session dates were presented by Provost Usher.

- Friday, June 5
- Tuesday, June 9*
- Saturday, June 13
- Tuesday, June 23*
- Saturday, June 27

The commission discussed potential engagement opportunities for local businesses, transit services, and restaurants.

Emphasis was placed on creating a welcoming community presence during incoming student orientation.

ACTION ITEM: Explore opportunities for tables for local businesses, transit, and restaurants at Quest sessions – Provost Usher

III. Radford Community Festival 2026

Melissa Skelton provided a comprehensive planning update on Radford Community Fest 2026. The event is progressing well across multiple workstreams, with several key milestones already achieved.

- Logo contest was successfully completed.
- A strong number of vendors have already registered for the event.
- The first band/performer has been secured for the event.
- Additional talent acquisition and event feature planning is well underway and on track.
- **ACTION ITEM: Provide a comprehensive update on Radford Community Fest 2026 planning at the June meeting – Tricia Smith/Melissa Skelton**
- **Explore the option of using the HUB as volunteer central in addition to its role for ADA parking – Tricia Skelton/Melissa Skelton**

IV. Integrated Plan discussion

Angela Joyner presented an updated Integrated Plan for review and input by commission members. The group discussed additional projects and initiatives that should be incorporated into the plan.

- Updated Integrated Plan presentation shared by Angela Joyner.
- Group discussed and identified additional projects and initiatives to be included.
- A new section covering Public Safety and Community Engagement was formally added to the plan.
- **ACTION ITEM: Forward updated Integrated Plan to all Joint Commission members for additional project updates and comments – Angela Joyner**
- **ACTION ITEM: Forward transparent/alternative logo for the City of Radford – Kim Repass/Melissa Skelton**

- **Present the Integrated Plan to City Council – Angela Joyner/Kellie Artrip (June or August)**

V. Retail Study discussion

The Retail Study Subcommittee presented an update on the project's early-stage progress. The team has convened and begun scoping the effort in collaboration with an external partner.

- The subcommittee held its initial meeting to discuss project objectives and potential scope.
- An introductory conversation was held with Retail Strategies to learn about similar retail strategy projects they have led.
- The scope of the project is currently being refined and will be finalized by the identified owners.
- **ACTION ITEM: Finalize the scope of the Retail Study project – Angela Joyner, Todd Meredith, Kim Repass, Nichole Hair and Melissa Skelton**
- **Provide update on Retail Study scope and progress – Angela Joyner, Todd Meredith, Kim Repass, Nichole Hair and Melissa Skelton (June)**

VI. Radford City Budget Update

Todd Meredith provided an informational update on the city budget development process, outlining key milestones in the current budget cycle and strategies being considered for the upcoming cycle.

- Overview of the budget development process and potential strategies for the upcoming cycle was shared.
- Public comment on the budget is scheduled for April 21, 2026.
- Second reading of the budget is scheduled for April 27, 2026.

Member Updates:

VII. Members:

City Representatives

- Kellie Artrip – Radford City Council Member

- Todd Meredith – City Manager
 - Expressed interest in seeking interns in finance, marketing, tourism and potential other areas to support local government operations.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Connect City Manager to key faculty and develop internship/position descriptions for internships – Todd Meredith, Lisa Ghidotti and Nichole Hair**
- Jerry Holdaway – Radford City Chief of Police
 - Radford City is now designated as a certified crime prevention community. The designation builds on the great work that the department is doing in addition to their CALEA accreditation.
 - Team participated in criminal justice panel on campus and are excited to engage with students
- Sarah Turpin – Executive Director, Radford Chamber of Commerce
- Kim Repass – Director of Economic Development & Director of Tourism
- Melissa Skelton – Director of Planning and Zoning
- Ben Bondurant - Real Estate Rep and Developer
- Kelsi Jones – Owner of BT’s Restaurant
- William Ratcliffe – Radford City Council Member - East Ward

University Representatives

- Susan Trageser - Vice President for Student Affairs
- Angela Joyner – Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
 - Group discussed opportunities to further communicate the integrated plan, developing talking points for initiatives providing updates and facts regarding projects (e.g. COGEN, university support for projects like EMT, amphitheater, transit), etc.
- 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
- Derek Neal – Radford Foundation

Calendar updates

- Radford City Council – April 13 @ 7:00 pm
- Just in Time Career Fair – April 16 - 4 pm – 6 pm – Artis Center
- Radford City Council – April 27 @ 7:00 pm
- Spring Graduate Commencement – May 1 @ 5 pm
- Spring Undergraduate Commencement – May 2 @ 2 pm – Moffett Lawn
- Next Joint Commission meeting – June 9 @ 8:45 am
- Radford Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament – May 18 - Pete Dye River Course
- Quest -
 - Friday, June 5
 - Tuesday, June 9*
 - Saturday, June 13
 - Tuesday, June 23*
 - Saturday, June 27