

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

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

Attendees: Kellie Artip, Angela Joyner, Jerry Holdaway, Eric Plummer, Melissa Skelton, Nichole Hair and Tricia Smith. Lisa Ghidotti, David Perryman and Sarah Turpin attended 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 Artip, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. High Bridge Trestle Project Update

Members discussed the rails-to-trails project linking Pulaski County and Radford. Prior cost estimates are now considered outdated. The group agreed that updated cost estimates and support letters are needed to support a federal earmark resubmission targeted for February.

III. Radford Community Fest Update

Radford Community Fest will be held on August 22, 2026. Tricia Smith confirmed 108 vendor booths have been sold. Longway Brewery will operate within the ABC-designated area, including a stationary booth near the main stage and a roped-off beverage area spanning three parking lots; this area will require wristbands and ID checks. Other alcohol vendors must similarly close off their service areas. The CARES mobile health clinic will have a separate screening/education area, and the Kids Zone layout and vendor logistics have been mapped out. The volunteer target is approximately 100 people, with sign-ups currently about one-third complete. Advertising plans include billboards, interstate banners, yard signs, social media vendor shout-outs, and upcoming TV placements. Website traffic metrics are currently inaccessible pending a connection/privacy fix.

ACTION ITEMS: Distribute Community Fest promotional materials and volunteer sign-up links to all partner networks

IV. AdventureWorks update

AdventureWorks is scheduled for September 8–9, opening with a networking reception on the evening of September 8, followed by a full day of panels on September 9 concluding by 1:00 p.m. As this is the inaugural event, registration will be invitation-only. Confirmed programming includes state representatives, regional tourism partners, operator panels, and a closing panel

focused on university roles. K-12 outreach will include invitations to school counselors for workforce pipeline discussions.

V. Member updates:

City Representatives

- Kellie Artrip – Radford City Council Member
- Todd Meredith – City Manager
- Jerry Holdaway – Radford City Chief of Police
 - National Night Out – August 4
- Sarah Turpin – Executive Director, Radford Chamber of Commerce
- Kim Repass – Director of Economic Development & Director of Tourism
- Melissa Skelton – Director of Planning and Zoning
 - Next Council meeting will be held July 26th at 6 pm
 - Revamping tourism board and trying to get representatives and would like one from Radford University
- Ben Bondurant - Real Estate Rep and Developer
- Kelsi Jones – Owner of BT's Restaurant

University Representatives

- Tricia Smith – Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
 - Students will be returning August 19 - 20
- Angela Joyner – Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education
 - Annual Radford University Economic Development Luncheon – Kyle Hall – September 10th @ 11:15 – 1 pm
 - Launch updated economic impact study
 - Hosting SCHEV campus visit on July 22, 2026
 - Data is being requested for Joint Commission impact study
- 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
 - Led presentation in Orlando on crisis management
- 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
 - Increasing branding marketing and communication coming in August

Calendar updates

- Fourth of July holiday – Offices closed July 3rd
- Radford City Council meeting – July 13th
- National Night Out – August 4th

- Radford Community Fest – August 22nd
- Labor Day holiday – Offices closed September 7th
- AdventureWorks – September 8th and 9th
- Economic Development Luncheon – September 10th
- Highlanders Festival – October 10th