

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

**The Hub on East Main Street
February 10, 2026 @ 8:45 am**

Attendees: Kellie Artip, Kelsi Jones, Angela Joyner, Susan Trageser, Jerry Holdaway, Kim Repass, Melissa Skelton, Nichole Hair, Todd Meredith, Ben Bondurant, Eric Plummer and David Perryman.

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. Housing Summit Update

Susan Trageser presented an update about the housing summit held on January 29, 2026, as a follow-up to the prior April summit. The session renewed partnerships with local property managers and addressed increased student interest in on-campus living driven by recent retention improvements. Three residence halls – Muse, Tyler and Norwood – are currently offline, reducing available capacity.

The current boarding policy requires first-time college students to reside on campus for four semesters, with certain exemptions available for transfer students. The distinction between obligated students (bound by the policy- [2025-2026-1yr-residential-student-agreement.pdf](#)) and non-obligated students who may seek on- or off-campus housing voluntarily was reviewed.

The university projects it will house approximately 200 non-obligated students on campus. Roughly 300 non-obligated students are anticipated to require off-campus accommodations. The university confirmed it will not use Muse Hall as overflow housing this year and has no current plans to expand residential capacity. Applications for housing opened February 1, 2026, with a deadline of February 20, 2026.

Andrew Price's, Director of Housing & Residential Life at Radford University will serve as the single point of contact for all housing coordination – both on- and off-campus. Mr. Price will convene property managers multiple times per semester and at least once over the summer. Both large management companies and private property owners are welcome to participate. Private property owners will be engaged through targeted communication efforts.

ACTION ITEM: Off-campus Housing Fair is scheduled for February 25, 2026, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm (for more information - [Off Campus Housing Fair / Radford University: Events Calendar](#))

III. Community Fest Planning

Community Fest planning is actively underway. Key logistics updates include:

- Vendor applications will open later this month (February 2026).
- Approximately 140 vendor spaces are available.
- ABC license discussions are ongoing.
- A logo contest was concluded; the winner is completing final edits.

The music schedule has been adjusted to three bands plus a community stage.

- The Community Fest invitation was distributed to all schools — public and private — in late December 2025. Management students are actively involved in planning and represent a valuable hands-on learning opportunity. The group also identified opportunities to engage event planning, communications, marketing, and journalism programs for project work, marketing materials, and podcast content.

IV. Blue Ridge Outdoors

- David Perryman announced to the group that discussions with Blue Ridge Outdoors are underway regarding a half-page advertisement in the March-April outdoor family issue, with potential editorial placement alongside the ad.
- Joint advertising with municipalities was proposed to amplify economic impact messaging.
- The editorial and advertising strategy also supports Radford “Adventure College.” [Radford University Crowned 2025’s Top Adventure College - Newswire - Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine](#)

V. Outfitter Concept

- Susan Trageser reported that Student Recreation and Wellness currently offers hiking, skiing, skydiving, caving, bouldering, and horseback riding, led by trained staff and student leaders.
- The Higher Ground orientation program has historically attracted approximately 40 students and operates at capacity, demonstrating strong demand for outdoor programming.
- A proposal idea was presented to create an outfitter concept that would expand equipment rentals, guided trips, and outdoor excursions to the broader community.
- Goals include drawing tourism to Radford City and the New River, increasing student employment and building transferable career skills.
- The concept is in early development, and the team will solicit stakeholder feedback as program details evolve.

- Regional partners including Camp Atari and Camp Powhatan were identified as potential expansion sites for high-adventure programming.
- Access and ranger permit requirements were noted as considerations.
- Participants shared positive accounts of student outcomes from outdoor experiences.
- The group indicated openness to collaboration on expanded offerings.

Participants discussed the need to restart a river tube and kayak rental operation. post Hurricane Helene. The group noted the high value of the walk-up, on-site rental model for spontaneous community use. The group inquired about timing for a formal RFP process and the matter was discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Susan Trageser and team will further explore concept based on feedback from stakeholders.

ACTION ITEM: Kim Repass will confirm of RFP timing.

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
 - Public works and public safety personnel noted hard work of crews during recent ice and snow storms
 - Salt supplies are ordered and will be replenished
 - Pickup trucks will be deployed to alleys earlier in future storm events
 - Trash will pickup the following day when missed due to weather
- Jerry Holdaway – Radford City Chief of Police
- 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 has advanced toward shovel ready status; additional studies have been completed and the grant closeout deadline is May 15, 2026
- Melissa Skelton – Director of Planning and Zoning
- 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

- Rad Talks next event is February 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Radford Public Library. Guest speaker Rob Warren will present on investigating tax fraud and financial crimes
- 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
 - DCJS Threat Assessment Training is scheduled for February 18 – 19, 2026
 - Regional School Safety Symposium: Scheduled for week of June 15, 2026
- 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

- Radford Chamber of Commerce 2026 Annual Meeting & Gala – February 6 @ 6 -9:30 pm
- Radford City Council meeting – February 9 @ 7 pm
- Connection and Community - February 12 – Scartelli Atrium
- Rad Talks – February 17 – Speaker Rob Warren – Radford Public Library
- Calm Day 2026 – February 17 & 18
- University Libraries hosts author Mills Kelly – February 19 @ 3 pm – Ross Gallery at McConnell Library
- RU Education Career Fair – Student Recreation and Wellness Center – February 20, 10 am – 3 pm
- Radford City Council meeting – February 23 @ 7 pm
- McConnell Day – February 25 – McConnell Library