

VT Comms_Strategic Partnerships Committee Monthly Meeting-20250411_100321-Meeting Recording

April 11, 2025, 3:03PM

51m 1s

● **Candace Taylor** started transcription

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 0:03

And try to put the two discussion items on the back end and just try to do some updates on the front end.

So Latifah, I know we have Internet problems if you're in a place where you're able to do you want to just give some CSP and other updates?

And I know there's been a lot of big announcements since this group last met, so.

LF **Latiyfa Fields** 0:25

Indeed, I'll keep it short.

The hold on the calendar, which I'm not sure if y'all are aware of, was for June 10th.

The hold is finally off and as of yesterday, which gives us a great time. April 10th we were able to get out the first invitation to folks. Not to everyone.

Just like our corporate social purpose.

Contacts and so that is exciting.

It's gonna be a Bridgestone from 4:30 Eastern Time.

Yep, central time to 6:30.

Anyone wants to join? There's a small program looking at.

Having the first lady who's like a very soft green light, it's on her calendar.

She wants to be there.

It's been on her calendar for like the last two months.

So Ella, who we work with anyways, but that she should be there unless you know something comes up, and then also we're hoping to have Jim Bryson, who's the Commissioner of FNA, give a couple words. And Jim and Terry.

So it'll be a virtual program mostly just like networking opportunity for.

The various corporate folks.

Another thing that is occurring.

We are right now conducting research to learn from state regulations and conducted research. This is something that needs to occur. But to identify how we.

Can the executive Committee wanted to make sure that businesses that are a good fit for the group are able to be a part of the group and that it's very clear on the types of businesses that may not be able to participate?

So right now we're trying to figure out what that language looks like and we're.

Talking with general counsel.

Another couple other projects that we're working on.

I don't know if any of them are super important to reference right now, but I think what I will do and I'll talk to Nathan about this is.

Put everything in like a OneDrive that like the meeting notes for this group, have and you'll also have access to the meeting notes from any of those Council meetings.

So you can always look at those notes prior to these Council meetings committee meetings. I think that, let me know.

You think I should reference something?

FJ

Farnor, Nathaniel James 2:26

Perfect. You want to mention that we're still in need of some East Tennessee folks in case anybody you want to add some caveat about what we're looking for.

LF

Latiyfa Fields 2:35

Yeah, that's a really.

So who's on the call?

Yeah. We're looking for East Tennessee partners right now.

We have a make up of 1414 or 15 members, including Nathan, who's currently representing as a Commissioner but also as a small business center in East Tennessee, the other East Tennessee partner is Eastman Chemical, an amazing company.

They do a lot of great work.

They haven't been able to be as active, but Matthew, who is our contact, is always in touch with us. You're looking for East Tennessee contacts.

You right now have a meeting coming up.

Sorry, the meeting's not actually scheduled as yet, but we're trying to coordinate a meeting with UNAM, which is also.

A top employer in the East Tennessee area and also McKee in the Chattanooga area. And Desko as well.

So the call is. You know, if you know of any East Tennessee partners in the corporate

space, in the business space, please do you let us know and if you're willing to contact, connect us, whatever we have e-mail template.

That would be very helpful.

And that was a good one.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 3:40

Perfect. Thank you.

Any questions or thoughts or ideas for Latifah around corporate social purpose?

It's all coming together and they've been working on it very, very tirelessly on my ad, so.

OK.

Very good.

Well, I will offer a quick update on state Service plan.

So the strategic planning group, I don't know if we actually have a name, this, this, this mod ***** of commissioners that are working together to come up with some sort of an initial starting place for the state Service plan.

We met again earlier this week, so we this was our second meeting. First meeting.

We just kind of brainstormed kind of timeline.

This meeting, and we really focused in on some high level.

Strategic goals and possible directions and tried to kind of workshop in wordsmith those a little bit Jim has shared that out with a few more folks that weren't able to be on that call that are part of that team. And I think the ASK was for them to.

Offer any additional feedback or edits over the next little bit next week or so, and then I believe and Jim correct me if I'm wrong, the goal is to try to share that with the larger Commission.

A little in advance of the May meeting so that folks can review it.

Is that all accurate, Jim?

JS Jim Snell 4:55

Yeah.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 4:56

Perfect. And then at the May meeting, that'll be kind of the first formal chance where we have like an actual document that has had some time spent on it where we all can kind of respond and and determine and discuss if those are the goals. So the goals.

That we as a team have discussed will be on that document kind of outline with some language.

One thing that I will share with you all that I think has been really nice and I think is part of it has actually come out of.

At least partially out of this committee because of the ways in which we had to combine.

Committee and some clarity on what is the new role of this larger committee.

Is it still the same as what it was when it was two separate committees?

Those sorts of questions.

So this group has been very intentional about trying to rethink the committee structure as well, at least at a high level, to make sure it actually aligns with the work 'cause Jim has shared that the our current kind of committee model and structure, for the most part has.

Remained relatively unchanged for quite some time.

So this with us doing a new state Service plan, we thought this was a chance to maybe redefine re look at are these the right committees?

Are they the right direction?

Is there a chance to to better align some of the committees and structures with the actual programs of work?

So and lots of your all thoughts and feedback has informed a lot of those things so. Again, all very high level, nothing final, but we're hoping to at least have a draft of a document to share with you all so we can at least start having a conversation about it.

So any questions about that?

Jim, anything I missed on that, that lane?

JS Jim Snell 6:32

I don't think so.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 6:35

Good, good. OK.

With that, the two discussion items really on the agenda for today, one was is day on the Hill. So just a little bit of a recap.

I think so. Amy was there.

Of course, Candice Jim, myself.

Latifah was there.

Caroline, were you at down the hill?

I don't recall if I didn't think so.

OK.

So really, I think if we wanted to take maybe just 5-10 quick minutes while we've got some time.

If there's any overall, I'll start and say I thought it was amazing.

I thought it was wonderful.

Lunch was fun. Lunch was interesting.

I've been trying to get lunch sorted, but in terms of the actual meetings, everything, at least I thought went really, really smooth.

This year I've heard lots of positive feedback, so kudos to Jim and all of the staff folks that were involved because I really do think it went really, really well this year. This is my second year with volunteer Tennessee's down the hill, and I definitely think it.

Seemed to be a little smooth.

I felt like I knew what was happening.

I knew where we were going.

I knew.

I knew all the things, so that's good.

So I maybe we take the next 5-10 minutes and just see if any folks have the staff as well.

So staff as well.

Just a chance to kind of share.

Here's an idea. Here's a thought.

Or here's what worked.

Here's what didn't work.

Or so. I'll just kind of open it up and people can just kind of jump in and I'll take some notes, but just stuff for us to think about for next year in addition to other feedback and comments that Jim has received.

AW **Amy Walter** 8:03

Hey, this is Amy.

I I thought it went really well.

In fact, you know, I got we got in to talk to a couple of folks that were just drop offs.

So I mean having all that information, having our list of people in advance. So we I

mean I like to pull a little CHEAT SHEET on each of them to to be able to highlight their interests if they align with ours, you know, and getting that I think.

I it really helps a day or two in advance.

It's for each of us to get the list of who we're gonna visit.

So that we have that time to look it up, so that was.

So that's always helpful. And I just think the only, I mean, you know, yeah, lunch was a little funky.

It's OK I think.

The only confusing thing was that end of day meeting was in a different location and it was a little confusing for folks, but it was a little bit of a jumble.

But otherwise everything went really well. The materials.

Were helpful.

Everything was organized.

Organized. Well, I know that's a lot of work and I just want to say kudos to Jim and his staff and everyone who worked on on it.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 9:13

Thank you, Amy.

Other thoughts and staff as well.

Candace Latifah, Jim if you all have things that least least it's out there in the open.

So we've got things to think about next year.

LF Latiyfa Fields 9:27

I guess I can say that.

We had interns this year.

I think we've used interns in the past.

But that was extremely helpful and we were a little bit more intentional about the work that we gave them. And so usually it would be staff doing that and you know that we already have like a ton of work.

So that was really great. And also to the interns point. So I always create a CHEAT SHEET for myself, Amy, where like that different connection points for each legislator that I'm gonna be with. So I can share that with the, you know, Commissioners or whomever I think if.

We again are intentional about recruiting for a day on the hill interns, or at least.

You know, talking to other interns, we have about Daniel. Then we could have them

do a little bit more to support including I think which would be really easy, a template e-mail follow up because I know that we're supposed to reach out and as in the commissioner's.

New staff, but I think that might help with like that.

Reach out follow up afterwards, like if you have like a couple of template.

And we could do that.

FJ

Farnor, Nathaniel James 10:23

Thank you, latifah.

Candace, I think you had your hand up.

CT

Candace Taylor 10:27

Yes, I I just wanted a little bit of feedback on the the training that Jim and I were able to prepare for everybody.

Was it helpful?

Is it something to institute?

Should we?

Like is there more in addition that we can prepare for in advance?

It's it's. It's nice to start a year ahead of time, you know? But but, you know, just looking for just feedback from you guys.

On the on the training, if it was helpful and if there's anything in addition that we could add to the actual training.

FJ

Farnor, Nathaniel James 11:11

I can start. I loved it.

Granted, I was an advocate for it on the front end, but now I thought it was very, very, very helpful.

Just being able to talk through the expectation, talk through some of those very that seemed like very simple and straightforward questions, everything from how's the meeting going to go to? What do I wear and where do I need to be and what does a schedule look like the?

Morning of I know I will.

Nestor's not on the call right now, but Nestor absolutely loved, loved, loved.

He's texted me as well, saying so. Love the training, but I think for him this is Nestor's first time doing it right and for him, if he had walked into the Cordelle hall building.

CT **Candace Taylor** 11:44

OK, awesome.

Right.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 11:53

Been given all this information, been given a quick 45 minute and you know debrief and then said best of luck that would have been so overwhelming.

So I think you know he of course.

His opinion's one opinion, but I do think especially for folks like Nestor, or whether it be AmeriCorps folks, whether it be agency partners.

Whether it be new Commissioners, I think it's especially helpful for folks that have never done it before to know what it actually looks like on the front end.

So I know it was very helpful to him, but even for me, as somebody who's done it before, it was a good refresher and I think it was a good way to kind of like get your nerves and stress out.

To not make it feel like it was all kind of falling on me in the morning, so I loved it.

I found it very helpful in terms of content during it.

I'll be honest, I probably need to go back and look at my notes.

I thought it was well covered, I thought.

I thought the material was well covered.

We talked about these.

You know you did the sample meeting like the mock meeting. We went over documents.

Jim, I think or you you were one of the two of you actually pulled up documents and showed folks what they would look like. So they knew exactly what was in their packets, saw a sample schedule, saw all the things, talked through lunch, talk through where to park.

Talked through what to wear and I feel like you all covered a lot in a short amount of time so.

Kudos.

CT **Candace Taylor** 13:05

OK, perfect.

Well, I guess I can just end it with this last question. Is the timing of the training

because we did it maybe a week out.

I think that works best for us because we have more material that's accurate, like that's accurate to present.

And it's a little bit still fresh on on people's minds.

But you know, I'd like to take it into consideration because, you know, we also don't wanna pile too much on Jim to be able to do the training.

And the day and the timing span that we did it.

So just so just a quick question on the timing of it.

Is it something that we are able to do a little bit earlier or was the timing pretty much on on par with you know with everything?

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 13:58

I feel like I'm talking a lot.

CT **Candace Taylor** 14:00

Well, I don't know if anybody on this call was actually, you know, now that I'm looking at it, I don't think anybody on this call was even at the training.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 14:02

It may just.

Me. So just me. It's just like.

CT **Candace Taylor** 14:07

So maybe this is the wrong group to pull.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 14:10

No, no. I will answer the question purely from Nathan's perspective.

I think I agree with your sentiments, I think.

I think there's a fine line that we have to walk between.

You want it to be? People want to know in advance, and there's benefit to that right to, you know. And Amy just mentioned, like it was nice being able to have some of the material.

Advance right.

Which I agree with. So I think there's a fine line between wanting to get things to people in advance.

To where they have plenty of time to review and plenty of time to ask questions. But from a logistics standpoint, I think I also agree with your comments, Candace, that the materials are more accurate at that point.

I mean it had we have done it significantly earlier, even a couple of weeks earlier.

I don't even know if we would have necessarily had the final list of who all was going, because I think Jim was still trying to get some clarity from folks on that.

So it was kind of like this perfect little.

Far enough in advance to where people feel prepared, but close enough to the event that things are accurate and all the right people can be on the call.

I thought a week was good.

I don't know if I would go any closer to the actual day.

Could you maybe bump it up a little bit more?

Possibly, but I think where it landed was fine and you had good attendance too, which I think says a lot.

CT Candace Taylor 15:16

OK.

Yes, OK.

Well, perfect.

Well then that's that was where all the questions I had. Thank you.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 15:27

Other thoughts and comments ideas around day on the Hill.

The the one other big comment I would add is and I know it wasn't necessarily intentionally planned this way 'cause we kind of just voted and and did like a poll on it, but it not being right on top of.

The conference was very nice.

Because I I know that there was a, there was a chance that it could. But you know, with a special session and all the things that was part of the reasoning behind trying to adjust it.

But I did like that there was a nice little gap.

I'm sure the staff probably appreciated that they weren't on top of one another, so I know that that kind of ebbs and flows.

Year to year, just depending on availability and schedules. But I do think that that was nice.

It was.

It was nice to have a little bit of a gap. So and then Amy also added in the comments if you didn't see kudos for getting more Mayor Corps partners to attend.

LF

Latiyfa Fields 16:22

I was just gonna add on really quickly to Amy's point.

I think that's because it was so far from the not so far, but because we had a gap between then and the conference.

I actually haven't heard that from anyone, but I infer and also we were able to do a little bit more I think in communicating with the partners AmeriCorps partners because we knew a little bit more in advance I think.

So that was good.

FJ

Farnor, Nathaniel James 16:48

Good, good.

Other thoughts, Jim?

Any anything on your end that you'd like. You know the group to think about or ponder on for next year?

JS

Jim Snell 17:03

Yeah. Well, I, I mean, I agree with everything that's been said so far. I think it it went really well.

I I agree that you know there is the tension between trying.

To get the materials.

Out far enough in advance.

But but also being able to make sure that those materials are accurate and correct and also the.

Again, we we didn't.

Really know who was going to show up until until the day when people showed up, which is that is the one thing I would say from maybe this committee's perspective.

You know, I've I've been kind of saying it for years that the Commission says that it's really important to have this day on the hill.

But then we only have, you know, 10 Commissioners actually show up, and that's a historical.

Trend.

That has not really changed over the years, so I I think this committee could could maybe take the lead.

In addressing that with the full Commission to say, look, either people have to show up or we need to stop doing this because we we can't.

We can't rely on the partners showing up to make our day on the hill work.

You know, we were fortunate that we did have a lot of partners show up, but that's also not always the case.

I mean, we have more show up this year than last year and that helped us be able to cover.

As many of the visits as we did, but it was probably about twice the number of partners this year as what we had last year.

So if we had last year's number of partners and this year's number of Commission members, we would have not been able to do nearly as many visits.

So anyway, I I think that's something.

To bring up to the full Commission that you know it, it is a lot of travel within a fairly short period of time with having the the day on the hill and then before that the GB SAN Conference.

But if it really is something that the Commission thinks is a valuable thing to do.

We need to have people commit to it and and I, you know, and that's not saying, you know, people have emergencies that pop up and there's nothing they can do about it. And that's not what I'm talking about.

I'm just talking about people just saying, you know, no, I'm not going to be there, you know. So I'd, I'd like to see our numbers increase for participation.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 19:46

It's very good. Thank you. Jam.

Very, very helpful and just want to offer a quick note, Terry.

JS **Jim Snell** 19:49

Yeah.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 19:51

Just texted.

Well, her I think she has some flooding, so she may attempt to join so.

JS Jim Snell 19:55
Hmm.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 19:58

So just wanted to throw that on there as well.

OK.

Other thoughts around today on the hill, I thought.

All that's very good and some very valuable items, especially your comments, Jim.

I really appreciate that and I would agree.

Other day on the hill? Thoughts.

OK.

Well, with that, I'm going to transition us to our last discussion item and I don't anticipate this will take a significant amount of time. 'cause, I don't think we're necessarily in the weeds, but want to talk a little bit about the roadshow now that we're officially through day.

On the hill, I think that was the goal was to get through down the hill. So just to offer some context, I think everybody on this call has at least heard some high level context at some point. But just for the sake of making sure everybody's on.

The same page.

During the retreat, this most recent Commission retreat, really trying to brainstorm one of the key ideas that came out of specifically more so the Communications Committee side of this team was how do we just increase the awareness and perception of the programs of the Commission, the Commission as.

A whole and just kind of raise that brand awareness a little bit and let people know that it exists.

There's still the perception.

Was from that from that conversation that there was still a large number of entities across the state that are very engaged in kind of the volunteerism space that still don't really know what volunteer Tennessee is or only know it in name, but don't really know its purpose or.

Function to the programming or the work that it does to support some of those agencies and for that matter, maybe even perhaps some agencies that.

Receive funding that maybe some of the people that are receiving services from that agency or even some of the folks that are working that don't really even know?

About volunteer Tennessee, even though that they're receiving some funding beyond the fact that they got some dollars.

So just really intentional conversation about how do we uplift and really talk about the amazing work that volunteer Tennessee is doing and just try to raise that awareness across the state. So that was kind of the starting place for that conversation.

Then, during the retreat, of course, we also Jim led us through the initial conversation around the state Service plan and kind of what that timeline would look like.

And it was mentioned as a part of the state Service plan that there's traditionally. Some component of public or partner input, whether that be through polling, surveying or some in person conversations. I think both have happened in the past in some capacity, but that normally is a part of the process as well.

So in that so in that retreat, we had the need to uplift and and and kind of, you know, highlight volunteer Tennessee a little bit better. And also this conversation.

Conversation about the state Service plan, focus groups and initially what came out of that essentially what came out of that was what does it look like to merge those two efforts?

And get on the road and we've been calling it the road show.

I don't know if that's actually the name we will use.

I think it's fun.

For some reason I see like a little cartoon of a bus or something with the Volunteer Tennessee logo on, I don't know.

That might be cheesy, but something like that.

But this idea of is there a way that we could get some staff some Vt staff?

Maybe a couple of Commissioners in some key areas across the state, boots on the ground want to just kind of connect and talk about the amazing work and network that the Commission is doing, but then also to perhaps host some of those focus group sessions that can help.

Inform and help us finesse the state Service plan.

So that's really kind of where all of this started at a very high level was this idea of a roadshow with the purpose of raising the awareness of the Commission and also collecting some community input.

In the middle of that, we also of course had.

We're following that had a natural disaster or kind of in the midst of that, with an increased focus on, of course, disaster preparedness, emergencies, all of those things

long term recovery.

So then there was this component of is there also a way to do a little bit of some public education as a part of that roadshow is kind of a small add in and that's where this idea of perhaps doing some education?

In the space in the in the areas that Don is working in, right.

So really thinking about disaster preparedness.

Whatever that looks like, that could be a session that could be like maybe a fun thing at a school where they're building their own go bags.

I don't know, right?

But just something that was a little bit more educational for the public.

So with that, that's what brought us to today.

Nothing has officially happened.

Nothing is public, but just trying to kind of start fresh with. That's the concept.

That's the idea.

A couple of caveats that I will add before I'll share the document that I've got pulled up on the other screen.

For the most part, and you'll see this, I think when you pull the document up.

The Gulls are fairly, fairly simple and straightforward, raising awareness and collecting information is a pretty straightforward goal.

It's not overly complicated with that.

I don't anticipate there being a ton of work involved with the roadshow.

Most of it's really going to be logistics, right?

I mean, you've got to get people from point A to point B, know where you're having conversations and meetings, those sorts of things.

So with that for today's conversation, I probably don't want us to get so much in the weeds of like dates, locations, time.

Because I feel like a lot of that's really going to be dependent upon Jim and his team frankly, right?

And when?

When the team's available, where the locations might be.

And so that's just gonna be a little bit of logistics magic that has to happen on the back end.

So for today really just kind of want to chat through the broad goals of the roadshow.

What we hope to see accomplished through the roadshow, what those things might

look like in terms of, OK, if you're spending a day in Knoxville doing a roadshow stop, you know, that's one of the locations.

Perhaps what does that day actually look like?

What is happening in order to accomplish these goals?

So do I have screen share permissions OK?

Yes, I do. OK.

Hopefully you it will allow you to see what I'm about to pull up.

And nobody is saying this, by the way.

So this is this is my initial draft that I've been working on in the last week.

Again, this is just goals.

This is not in the weeds of locations.

Dates, timelines, all of that.

I think I'll learn more heavily work with Jim and Latifah and Candace to figure out, but really from our perspective, just kind of the goals. So real quick, I'll kind of run through what I've got on this. Again, this is a high level draft. We could toss this.

Whole thing, but I thought it was a good starting place for us to think about so that we can actually start putting some things on paper.

So goal one increase awareness.

Volunteer Tennessee in its mission.

That is pretty straightforward within that really. Is this idea of fostering some new relationships, strengthening connections with agencies on the ground who are engaged in service and volunteers, and broadly looking back at some of the notes over the last year and some of our committee conversations, one of.

The items that has come up is there's a lot of wonderful agencies and partners that we work with because they receive funding from us or because they're a volunteer center grant recipient from us or something along those lines.

That are more familiar with the Commission, at least at a surface level.

But there's also a lot of agencies that are operating in the volunteer kind of management service space that maybe aren't receiving any financial or resource support from us at this time. And honestly, may not really even know that we exist.

I mean, that's just the reality, right?

So they wouldn't even know, perhaps, to consider applying for a grant or to utilize the Tennessee Service network, right?

They're just not on their radar.

So in addition to trying to strengthen and have some connections with existing folks.

Is there really an opportunity just to get some new people in the room?

Right people that are doing that kind of work, if anything, just so you know, Latifah and Jim and Candace and the Commissioners on the call just have some friendly faces and more connections, right.

Like if Latifah was able to spend some more time in East Tennessee finding some East Tennessee business partners might be easier, right? So. So really just very surface level.

There's just value in some relationship building, of course, as a part of that is actually highlighting the ongoing program partnerships and impact.

That that Vt is directly involved.

So we are talking about a miracle or Tennessee service corporate social purpose, the conference or Programs GB all the things, all the many initiatives of the Commission. Is there one nice place in that kind of a setting, right where you're just kind of networking where you can say, here's who we are. Here's all the things that we do plug in where you can, right.

Is there a way to kind of say that?

And then, of course, on the high levels just to kind of strengthen brand identity and public engagement.

With volunteer Tennessee, what does that actually look like that I do?

That's been floated in some other conversations.

This has really probably been at its most simple form. Just getting people in a room together, right?

You're maybe at some light refreshments reception style in some sort of a space with some key invites.

And a brief program I almost similar to what we're doing for the CSP kickoff really right.

Not as large, not as robust.

Not a 45 minute program or anything, right?

But quick 1520 minutes of some remarks and just a chance for all the people to be in a room and meet one another.

Ideally, agencies that we either are already engaged with.

Or could be as well as. Potentially this has come up multiple times.

Another good opportunity to invite some elected officials to something, especially because we're in their districts for that thing, right?

So being able to invite folks to that thing to hear not the five minute version that we

gave during day on the Hill, but something a little bit more in depth and actually get to meet some partners in a more casual setting might be nice. So that was.

Kind of goal #1 just increase awareness about who we are, what we do.

Goal #2, of course, is gathering community input.

On the site Service plan, as I shared that probably is a focus group, I mean that's pretty straightforward, some sort of a focus group with some key stakeholders, whoever those might be as a part of that.

So I don't imagine that being a significant number of people, but again, a small intimate group of people that can offer some feedback on the state Service plan and then goal #3 is education around disaster preparedness and voluntary engagement emergencies.

That could go a lot of different directions.

That's why under strategy and target audience, you'll see it's kind of to be determined.

Of course, definitely would, would invite Don's opinions and thoughts on this.

This could be a session. He did a session for example for me over spring break with a group of Rome scholars that were in Nashville.

They absolutely loved it.

It was like a high level, not quite a cert session, but kind of a high level intro about. Disaster preparedness how to make a go kit all the things.

So it could be something educational program wise or it could be as simple as we're going to do some sort of a table pop up or people can come by and build their own go bag.

I don't know.

So it could be something more interactive or it could be something more educational.

But the thought is in a single stop being able to try and accomplish all three of those tasks.

Some sort of a gathering, a focus group, and something educational.

Perhaps all in one space.

That's a possibility. Perhaps this is.

Could be viewed as three small events within a couple of hours period.

I don't know.

I think all of that's up in the air.

But that's what that looks like.

So I'll pause there.

Really just am curious to know one. Are these not worried about the wording necessarily?

This is not a public external document.

This is just something for us to operate off of, but are these the right goals?

Do these align with some of the conversations that have already happened?

Is there something else we want to get out of the roadshow that we haven't mentioned?

You know, if we're already going to have staff and some Commissioners on the ground.

Is there something else that we need to jump on and and and an opportunity that we need to utilize since we're already going to be there?

There was a mention a couple of times we talked about. Is there an opportunity to engage some CSP people in this perhaps?

Is there, you know, could a goal for be a, you know, a mini local gathering?

I don't know, right?

So all of those things are up on the table, up in the air. So I'll pause there, but a little bit of a starting place. Just curious to see.

Where people's heads are.

What kind of thoughts they have about what's on the screen?

Or what's missing?

Do we love it?

Do we hate it all the things?

And I invite staff too, because you all will be able to involve.

So I invite staff input as well.

Again, not trying to get so much in the weeds of timing and dates and all of that locations because that'll vary, but in terms of content, what are thoughts?

JS **Jim Snell** 32:20

Oh Natha, I think the content is.

Is great. I think one of the things.

And it's it's on here. But I think one of the things that we were we had talked about kind of early on is like how, how can we how can we make sure that people really know about the Tennessee serves network.

And in particular, to get nonprofits to sign up for it, to post their volunteer

opportunities and help spread the word.

In communities for people to and that's that's up at the top that you already have under the spread in the awareness part that the second bullet point I think under the top the goal one.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 33:05

Yep, I say Yep.

JS Jim Snell 33:06

Yeah, I mean it's it's already there, so.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 33:08

But maybe more intentionally elevated is what you're saying a little bit more intentionality.

JS Jim Snell 33:10

Yeah, I yeah, yeah, I I think we don't wanna kind of gloss over that as we're as we're doing the road show. I think we wanna make sure that it's a really a strong part of what we're what we're doing as part of the road.

Show to build up that network and get more people to sign up for it. Both both agencies and volunteers, because I think there's there's lots of room for growth with that network.

But we don't.

We don't really have the capacity.

To you know, reach people directly from Nashville.

You know, so.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 33:47

Mm hmm.

JS Jim Snell 33:47

If we're out in the communities and we can talk to folks about it, I think that's a great opportunity.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 33:53

Awesome.

Other thoughts?

Latifah thoughts anything from the CSP side?

Any opportunities you see?

And maybe not.

And that's fine, but.

LF **Latifya Fields** 34:05

And I was just about to say so on the CSP end, I think what you referenced Nathan already is what I would hope to see.

A special invitation maybe to join this very general event where CS PS reference.

Or maybe a special business, one business specific. I also am just thinking of time.

I know we're not talking about time just yet, but on the miracore end we do a couple of things in the summer and it's it's really not a lot, but just thinking about adding on to that makes me a tad weary to go back out and so myself.

And lizee this is not every year, but we do about we're supposed to do about.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 34:42

No.

LF **Latifya Fields** 34:44

Two to three site visits.

We've got 2 coming up in East Tennessee, so it would be great.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 34:46

Mm hmm.

LF **Latifya Fields** 34:49

Maybe aligned with that is what I should say.

And not have us coming back to East Tennessee.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 34:52

Mm hmm.

LF **Latifya Fields** 34:54

Probably like a couple weeks later.
'Cause that would actually be in June.
Yeah, but I think this looks really good, Nathan.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 35:03

Awesome. Very good, very good.
Pandas event planner extraordinaire.
What thoughts might you have?

CT **Candace Taylor** 35:14

I have a lot of thoughts. I have a lot of questions, so that's why I was just, you know, sometimes it's just like, let me just wait.
But I mean, I think for the for the bare bones of you know of what you put together it it looks really good.
I would if I'm if I would add an initiative that we could possibly sort of align with. It would maybe be our award of excellence.
How do we?
How do we also get?
Schools and youth involved. We have people that are repeat.
Winners every year of Award of Excellence.
So you know, just, you know, just seeing and I really love the idea of.
Of also, you know, involving some type of hands on thing that gets people there.
It's a, you know, we can talk for 15 minutes.
Yeah, sure.
But what are we gonna do for the rest of the time? So, you know, we can develop a strong program that that we're, you know, that we're going through, of course. But just really focusing on.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 36:03

Mm hmm.
Mm hmm.
Mm hmm.

CT **Candace Taylor** 36:14

You know what that looks like like.

You guys are saying we're not focusing on time or frequency of what we're doing, but I think this is a great start.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 36:28

And then Latifah added in the chat, sub grantees.

LF **Latiyfa Fields** 36:37

Sorry as an inviting.

CT **Candace Taylor** 36:37

In our volunteer center, even if we are, this might be an opportunity as well to get connected with our find a way to get connected with the Higher Education Consortium as we're looking at different colleges, it's a little bit less hectic in the summer than it would be.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 36:54

Don't.

CT **Candace Taylor** 36:55

In the fall and in the spring.

We're doubled on one with, you know, with ETSU hint or even maybe the University of the South, you know, so.

But we do have.

We do have partners out there that could definitely look in.

You know that could possibly support the space. The capacity for what it is that we're looking for.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 37:12

Mm hmm.

Hmm.

That that's very helpful, Candace.

I appreciate that comment.

I agree.

I definitely am planning this document.

I've actually floated the idea of by a couple of folks here in Northeast Tennessee, a

couple of friends in the chat area.

I floated by a couple of partners and the Memphis area that I just happened to have some relationships with about like, hey, if alter Tennessee was to come into town and do like a A1 day, something to just meet folks, engage, do some education, talk about OPP.

What? What do you think involvement would look like?

And I definitely think.

That there's probably the potential that a region or wherever the sites are, right, whatever the locations are, and we'll figure that out, perhaps can take a little bit of ownership for it. I think that I think that there's probably some interest in and opportunity for that one, I.

Think that allows us to not to be able to do this for minimal resources in some some capacities, right?

Which is always nice.

But two, I mean, I think about like if there is there a CSP partner that would be like?

Yeah, come do it in my space. Right. Like that would be awesome. Or a higher Ed partner.

Or Chamber partners right that are willing to offer up some space there. Maybe some local entities that will be willing to to sponsor some food or sponsor an activity, right?

So it may even be that every stop isn't exactly the same, right?

I know that that the the organized part of me twitches at that thought a little bit, but then another part of me also says that there's something nice about that. If there's a little bit of ownership.

Because it's gonna. The day will look like whatever the day needs to look like for Knoxville. The day's gonna look like whatever the day needs to look like for Memphis, right?

Depending on what the needs are, right?

So maybe it is that there are a couple of CSP gatherings, but maybe they're not at every stop, right?

Maybe it's just the ones where we happen to have.

CSP folks.

Right. Or we happen to be in a space where we do have a good number of higher Ed potential partners?

Maybe there's some intentionality behind us trying to do something special in that

area, so I do like this idea of really trying to think through all of the stakeholders that aren't just our traditional agency partners.

So I really really appreciate your comments, Candice.

CT **Candace Taylor** 39:29

No problem.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 39:35

Anything else that we would want to get out of again?

We've got boots on the ground.

It's already a lot.

Sounds like we're gonna do a lot.

So maybe the list is long enough, which is good.

This is helpful.

So what I think we've got about 15 minutes left. I'll quit sharing my screen for now.

What I'm anticipating and I'm going to throw this probably to Jim, Candace and Latifah as a question, is, since we've got perhaps a little bit of framework, I'll share this out with.

The committee as a whole and ask if there's just and then I'll probably send it out this afternoon.

And just ask if there's a little bit of additional feedback or anything else folks need or want for consideration.

But perhaps would there be a time that, at a minimum, probably. Maybe Latifa, Candace and I. Jim, if you want to be in or not in a conversation, but maybe for us to actually just sit down and get in the weeds of what this might actually look like.

Talking about more logistic things, cuz this all looks great on paper. Trying to figure out what does it look like in terms of an actual schedule during a day, right?

What does that look like?

How does that work then?

We might be able to identify are there some costs associated?

Are there space needs associated and we could try to workshop and brainstorm because some of that may guide us and help us to wind this list down a little bit.

Would that be a realistic next step? Jim? Candace latifah.

It's just for us to really get in the weeds and as a small group.

Put pen to paper.

CT Candace Taylor 41:04
Yes.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 41:05
OK, OK, good. I thought so, but.

JS Jim Snell 41:06
Yeah, I I think that would be good, yeah.

CT Candace Taylor 41:06
Yes.
The sooner, the sooner the better.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 41:10
Agreed. Agreed.
Well, if I can ask, then Latifah. Candace, if you all.
I'm the two of you. I know. Have some busy schedules. Since you all are able to communicate a little bit more regularly. If you all want to maybe come up with a couple of potential time even next week. I'm as early as next week. I could. I could. Make that happen and maybe send me some dates or something and we could find a time to just hop on that. And if there's any other folks on the call commissioners that would want to just be super engaged in that in the weeds conversation. And have capacity. I think we would invite that as well, but I think that'll be the conversation where we really get into kind of the nitty gritty and that's probably where a lot of Candace's questions are I imagine.

CT Candace Taylor 41:46
Absolutely. And it's this meeting that is the meeting that we're having with you before or after you solicit input from the remaining members of communications and strategic partnership.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 41:55
I can send.
I will send this out today.

I'll send a debrief e-mail from this meeting today and and I'll ask for folks. So let's our meetings early to mid next week.

CT **Candace Taylor** 41:59
OK.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 42:06
I'll ask folks in the next few days if they just have a quick little bullet point to add or some feedback just so we'll have it for our conversation.
Perhaps if there's something we could not considered, but I'll try to make that happen before our conversation.

CT **Candace Taylor** 42:15
OK.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 42:17
So we have everything in front of us.

CT **Candace Taylor** 42:19
OK.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 42:20
Does that work? Or would you prefer it be the other way around?

CT **Candace Taylor** 42:24
I think it's probably gonna be a back and forth conversation throughout the initial plannings of it anyway, just to iron out the the details of what's happening. So.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 42:27
Mm hmm.
Yep.
Yep.
No, that works OK.

CT **Candace Taylor** 42:36

Either either it's fine.

I was just asking for a little clarification, but you know either.

FJ Farnor, Nathaniel James 42:39

Yeah, no.

Yeah, that'll work.

So I'll make it a point to get this document I just shared with you all out before our meeting.

And then we'll go from there.

And yeah, and then.

Amy asked in the chat.

Do you have it in the budget to pass that little volunteer Tennessee or AmeriCorps stickers at these events?

So, Amy, that is a great question. We have no budget, so.

I did have a chance to chat prior to this conversation.

Did have a chance to touch base?

With Jim and Terry to get a little bit of clarification on timing, which Latifah mentioned, so we can make sure we're avoiding any other big priorities for the Volunteer Tennessee and also through money.

So of course we do not have in this year's budget an actual budgeted actual budget of dollars for the road show. We all we do have some budgeted dollars for travel that Jim has shared. We perhaps can tap into.

We'll just need to look at what that might look like in terms of again, that may be what impacts the dates and times and who's going.

Things, but so on the travel side, which is the more expensive side. There are some dollars we can tap into per gym on the actual programming side, right?

So if we are doing a reception.

In Chattanooga, and there's some costs availed with space or food, those are going to be costs that we're going to have to find some dollars for.

Again, I do think from some initial conversations and floats I've put out there, I do genuinely think we can probably.

Find some space for no cost and perhaps even identify some partners at the local level that may be willing to sponsor some. You know \$500.00 of light refreshments or something, right?

Like some finger foods or something like that.

So I think the goal is and that's I think that's probably some of what Candace and Latifa and I will be able to chat about is how do we do this on a shoestring slash nostring budget.

But printing wise specifically around volunteer Tennessee stickers, Ameri corps.

That's probably a gym question.

I don't know if you all already have some stuff like that in house, like like little little swag and things like that.

JS **Jim Snell** 44:42

Yeah, well.

We do.

We've got some writing pins.

And.

And some note tablets. And then we have.

There the stickers that we send the params.

To put to display that says.

It's has the volunteer Tennessee logo and the Mayor Corps logo, and it says, you know, I can't remember exactly what the statement is, but something in along the lines that.

This is provided with federal funds or something like that.

So it's not really, it's not really something that you could give to people.

And have it be like, oh, here's something that's just a volunteer Tennessee sticker or an americor sticker.

But Caroline put something in the chat about americors stickers that we can order.

But in terms of like just straight up volunteer Tennessee.

Stuff outside of the pins and the tablet. The writing tablets we don't have like little stickers.

Or something like that.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 45:52

Good.

Amy, does that answer your question?

AW **Amy Walter** 45:59

Yes, thank you.

I was just trying to think of a way I leave behind, you know.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 46:05

Yes, yes, I do love.

I'm looking at Jim's box, his not Jim's specific.

I'm looking at Jim's Box and I'm looking at the Volunteer Tennessee logo on my screen right now and I was thinking about your comment, Amy, and then Caroline, thinking about the AmeriCorps stickers, which you just shared, which I love.

Honestly, the Volunteer Tennessee logo.

The way it looks, I know if we're allowed to do this, but just that die.

Cut as the logo by itself looks like a really good sticker.

Like it's.

I mean it's it's a nice, even geometric shape.

That is pretty simple.

So even outside of the road show, right?

There might be something nice to just kind of have on hand to some additional swag, so I don't know what stuff like that looks like, but.

JS **Jim Snell** 46:40

Yeah, yeah.

Yeah, well, we could.

I mean, we could potentially look at state printing.

Yeah. Yeah. Candace is saying she could look into pricing.

So yeah, Candace, if yeah, it would also be a great patch and that that actually when we when we, I mean being the Commission when the Commission went through several years ago on rebranding and develop this logo, it was very intentionally.

Developed to be a logo, a shield, A you know something that could be.

You very versatile in how we use it.

So yeah, Candace, if you don't mind checking with, let's go to state printing 1st to see if they can do just plain old stickers.

And if you know what that might cost us and I I don't.

Is that what you're thinking of? Nathan is like stickers, or are you talking about, like, window clings? Because the, you know, the window clings are are different.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 47:41

I'm thinking stickers like stickers like I put on my water bottle.

CT **Candace Taylor** 47:44

Like am I getting on my computer?

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 47:46

Yes. Yeah, Yep, Yep, Yep.

CT **Candace Taylor** 47:46

Yeah. Am I getting? Yep.

JS **Jim Snell** 47:47

Yeah, yeah, yeah. OK, yeah. Stickers.

Yeah. Well, that that probably would be easier anyway.

That probably would be cheaper.

So yeah, Candace, if you don't mind checking with, say, printing on that and Nestor's saying that he would definitely wear.

Vt logo which is something that we can also explore separately to get patches for Commissioners and staff that they could maybe either sew on or iron on to to things.

That might be something worth I I don't think it.

Makes a whole lot of sense to try and do lead behinds of of patches because this probably would be kind of expensive.

But stickers, I think would probably be cheap enough that we could get a bunch and have those on hand and and have us leave behinds.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 48:38

Perfect. OK. I know we've got about 9 minutes left. I think this is a great conversation about all the things.

Just to recap, so I'm going to send this document out to the whole team. That way, if there's folks on the committee that didn't have a chance to offer some quick input, they can offer a couple of quick thoughts.

Latifah, Candace you'll let me know when next week. Perhaps we want to get together and I've got some pretty wide flexibility, so feel free to do it when's

convenient for you all.

And then we'll kind of go from there.

On this right?

We'll get more in the nitty gritty weeds and come up with additional questions we may have from that.

Is that good that accurate?

LF **Latiyfa Fields** 49:18

And I think I should reference too talking about bare bones. Of course we are one person down, and so whatever the expectations might look like for getting out certain types of marketing and materials, I think if this committee could support in that or it just, I guess also.

Just knowing expectations might need to be lowered a little bit, or the Commission committee is able to support and send things.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 49:40

Thank you.

Very helpful reminder and Candace, is that what you were going to share as well?

CT **Candace Taylor** 49:46

No, I was just saying the thumbs up that that sounds good.

I think it's a good plan of action for us to know what type of information and feedback we can get at the May meeting, so I'm all aboard, you know, with the logistics up until then.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 50:00

Perfect. That sounds great.

OK. With that, we've got about 7 minutes left.

That's the official agenda.

Anything else folks on the call have staff commissioners questions, things that bring attention to?

OK.

Well, with that, I think we will adjourn and look forward to seeing you all. May 2nd will be here in like no time.

So, but I think it is that what two weeks from now, three weeks from now.

JS **Jim Snell** 50:28

Well.

It is what's today's Friday so 123.

Yep, 3 weeks. Yeah, yeah.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 50:36

Right at three weeks. Very good.

Well, thank you all so much.

I appreciate it, Latifah, Jim.

Can you all sound for just? I have a miracor question completely unrelated.

JS **Jim Snell** 50:43

Yeah, yeah, sure.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 50:46

I just have a question.

JS **Jim Snell** 50:47

Yeah.

FJ **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 50:47

Thank you all so much. Appreciate it.

JS **Jim Snell** 50:50

Thanks everybody.

LF **Latiyfa Fields** 50:51

Hi everyone.

JS **Jim Snell** 50:51

Have a great weekend.

NR **Nestor Reyes** 50:53

Have a good weekend everyone.

AW **Amy Walter** 50:55

Thanks.

CT **Candace Taylor** 50:57

Hold on just one second, guys.

Let me stop the recording first.

● **Candace Taylor** stopped transcription