**VT Comms\_Strategic Partnerships Committee Monthly Meeting-20250509\_100232-Meeting Recording**

May 9, 2025, 3:02PM

42m 53s

 **Latiyfa Fields** started transcription

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 0:03
Make this a quick, efficient meeting.
Get all the things done. We need to talk about so, and I'm sure everybody will love to have some time back. So that'll be great.
OK.
Well, we'll go ahead and get started.
I think everybody here.
Most of the people here were at the Commission meeting that we, the most recent Commission meeting we just had, but just quickly wanted to just, you know, address the elephant.
Plural. I think there's lots of them in the room.
Which of course is if you weren't in that meeting, spend a significant portion of that Commission meeting. In addition to that, the formal work that need to take place just talking about the current climate and the things that are happening around us both within and outside of our.
Control, especially around AmeriCorps.
Spend a lot of time talking about that Jim and his team, of course, have been right in the brunt of it managing it as well as those of you on the screen that are Mayor Cor affiliated to the jasons of the world.
Have been right in the middle of it. One of the items that came out of that meeting, just so you all are aware is in addition to the formal committee meetings and the big Commission meeting was pulling together the Executive Committee.
To really get in the weeds and chat through some strategic planning around.
Worst case scenarios and just mapping out possibilities of things that could happen and kind of planning ahead and appreciative to Jim and Terry that we're already on it. Those emails have already been flying back and forth and looking at dates and all the things.
So I just want to provide that update the outside of our committee meeting some small people that are going to try to get together and and brainstorm and worst case scenario and things like that.
So anything Jim Latifah, Candace.
To add to that, just want to add that kind of. There are a couple people that might not have been at the meeting.
OK.
Well, I'm going to probably start with updates and then we'll save the roadshow for the end, because I think there's a couple of items of actual discussion related to the roadshow.
So I'm probably going to start with CSP.
So, Latifah, any any updates you want to share or information you want to provide?

 **Latiyfa Fields** 2:14
Yeah. So I could share something with you all afternoon.
I know that the focus is on the roadshow.
Of course, June 10th is coming up.
We right now, Candice might know the answer to this more, but I think we're like halfway at registration, which is 60 folks. And the biggest things that I have to get done prior to the launch is really working on the website.
Of course we have that gap in the communications persons right now.
And then being able to like actively post certain things 'cause, we decided not to necessarily like market the event because it's only 60 folks.
So like more so marketing, just like corporate social purpose in general as we like come up to the launch like the benefits etcetera. And I think also just this committee really thinking about intentionally how the Commission will continue to sustain this group in the future.
Right now, of course, like I as the mayor, core person is doing this.
But how will like integrate that into like?
Like the Commission's work, and then also just again be able to stay in this group in a good way in the future is something I hope the group can think about.
Then I think that's it for now.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 3:22
Perfect. Awesome.
Any updates on the logo situation 'cause? I wasn't due the last week's maybe or I may be making that up.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 3:25
Ah.
It was due last week and so we got 3 submissions from a Belmont student or from Belmont students.
Right now we have.
Thank you, Nathan, for bringing that up.
So we have those three and then one of our new network core members, which is the leadership group now, they actually have their own communications marketing business and they offered to do the logo too.
So we're gonna, we have options now and it's just now about me having the capacity to turn my attention.
And it make it happen and talk to our team internally and then maybe be able to share that with you all, at least the options and then really get it to the network or meeting which is in 11 days.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 4:11
Excellent. Awesome.
Thank you. And for context, for those that may not know.
So the CSP leadership folks have been working on some local options and they kind of outsourced it, not outsourced.
That's the wrong word, but invited college students and things to to offer some potential options.
Similar to what we did for, I think the governor's Volunteer Star Awards a couple years ago.
So I've got some options in and Latif and her team are kind of working through those and then when the appropriate time in the process.
Will we, as a committee, will get to to see some of those as well, and perhaps offer some feedback?
So thank you.
That is great on that note, before I move to the next item. Jim, do you want to provide if you have one and if not, that's OK. I know I'm putting you on the spot because I didn't ask you this in advance.
Do you want to provide a quick update on the situation regarding the communications position?
I know right now I think my understanding is we're probably not going to move forward at this moment in time with refilling that position, and that may be inaccurate if that is inaccurate, correct me. But.
Just so folks know, kind of where we're at in terms of that position, not that position.
That sort of a thing.

 **Jim Snell** 5:14
Yeah, sure.
So.
We wanted to wait until we get a little bit of clarity on what's going on at the national level before we.
Refill a vacant slot just in case.
I mean, there's no indication right now that that the emirc or agency and doge are are going to try to either cut or eliminate State Commission support grants or.
Commission investment fund.
Which are two are two main are are there are two only operational grants.
So there's no indication that that's going to happen, but we just we thought with all the uncertainty around AmeriCorps in general that it would be best to just wait a bit until we get some clarity on that until Doge actually leaves AmeriCorps and we can see, you know.
Are they? Are they?
Are they done with the cuts or are they still?
Will have more to do.
So yeah, we haven't.
We haven't done any postings yet.
We haven't kind of put it out there yet, so we're just kind of in a wait and see mode for for at least the the short term.
I mean, I do hope eventually that we'll be able to get some clarity and go ahead and post that position and and open it up. But for right now, I think it's probably best if we just wait.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 6:41
Perfect. Thank you, Jim.
Any questions from anyone on that?
I just wanted him to, yeah.

 **Jason Scott** 6:47
I I just throw it out there.
I think it makes sense.
I mean with with the folks that we already got, I think it gives you more options just to make sure folks are taken care of.
So yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 6:57
Yeah, yeah, for sure.
And you know, again, there's no indication that those and AmeriCorps are going to try and cut commissions, but it's still a possibility.
You know until until they actually leave the agency and move on to the next.
Federal agency that is still a possibility.
So yeah, yeah, I think it's it.
It's kind of the safe conservative thing to do is to just wait and yeah, and and I think given how completely uncertain things are it it makes makes the most sense.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 7:30
Other questions?
Comments for Jim.
Thank you, Jim.
I think that was helpful.
So, OK, awesome. On the transitioning down to the state Service plan. So as you all recall, we had that and we went over this in the Commission meeting, but had that small group of committee chairs and a couple of plus ones from the other Commissioners from each committ.
Worked over a series of a couple of meetings to pull together kind of those key bucket areas of opportunity and focus related to the the new three-year plan.
And those buckets at a very high level, not not having been wordsmith, but at a very high level were presented at the Commission meeting that would the most recent Commission meeting. And I think we tweaked and played with those a little bit and basically got the blessing from.
The Commission to move forward in those general directions, so just wanted to update the group that now what is going to happen is.

 **Amy Walter** 8:27
Can I interrupt you, Nate?

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 8:27
Those yes, yeah, yes.

 **Amy Walter** 8:29
I I got to the meeting late, so I don't know what the buckets are.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 8:32
Yep.

 **Amy Walter** 8:33
Do you mind for anybody who could?

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 8:33
Yes. Do you?
Do you have that document, Jim?
You might be able to pull up.

 **Jim Snell** 8:39
Yeah, sure.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 8:39
And do the two-minute overview version.

 **Jim Snell** 8:42
Yeah. Hold on just one second.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 8:43
Awesome. Thank you, Amy. That's helpful.

 **Jim Snell** 8:44
I'll open. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
OK so.
Sure, I'm opening the right.
One, OK.
Yeah. So this is the.
This is kind of the.
Refined version, so the the that committee did some work and then Kim went in and kind of did the bullet points underneath the ABCD etc.
So.
Supporting our robust network of volunteers and service learners, building capacity for volunteers.
Maximizing the value of communications and partnerships in partnership.
And then operating with excellence, those are the four key areas.
And so the first three are more external.
In terms of what the Commission is doing out in the Community and the 4th was more of an internal.
Set of goals.
For, you know, developing the Commission and financial oversight, et cetera.
So that that's kind of how the and so the three kinda external are on the screen right now.
And.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 10:06
For for context, the I think one of the big kind of guiding principles behind this entire what you're saying on the screen was trying to from that committee, I think myself included.
Was trying to take a step back from being Super Hyper focused in on specific issue areas.
So if you, if you recall, our current plan has very specific target goals around food insecurity, for example, or around X insert any number of issues or topics.
So I think the goal from those conversations and everybody was pretty much in support of from that committee trying to focus more on what really is within our direct area of control.
As the Commission right, the Volunteer Tenancy Commission itself, doesn't really.
We don't do food work right.
Second Harvest Food Bank does that right now what we do is support second harvest.
How do we support second harvest?
By ensuring they have volunteers, by ensuring that they feel supported, that sort of a thing. So, so trying to be intentional about how we phrase and how we identify our goals to ensure that they're actually physical, tangible things that we could program around because we as the Comm.
Again, we we probably can't solve food insecurity, right?
But we can't help support infrastructure that would help the.
That are doing food insecurity. Do their work better.
So I think that was kinda the guiding principle behind all of what you see on the screen.
But questions.
Awesome. OK.

 **Nestor Reyes** 11:34
That's excellent.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 11:34
Thank you, Jim.

 **Nestor Reyes** 11:35
Thank you.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 11:35
Yep, Yep, Yep.

 **Nestor Reyes** 11:35
Thank you for that.
That's excellent, guys.
Thank you.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 11:39
OK.
Thank you, Jim.
I appreciate it. And thank you Amy, for pulling that up.

 **Jim Snell** 11:41
Sure, of course.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 11:42
I didn't even dawn on me, so that is helpful.
So during the big Commission meeting, that document that you just saw from Jim is essentially what was presented again very like 30,000 foot level broad buckets obviously need some wordsmithing.
Need some more detail so the next steps and correct me if I'm wrong. From my recollection is we're going to rely on that same team to come back together.
And do a little bit more quickly some words.
Adding a little bit more specificity to some of those bullet points.
So for example, one of the bullet points under the first section was just awards programs.
What does that really mean?
What? What does that actually mean?
What are we hoping to accomplish?
I mean just trying to add a little bit more direction.
And detail to each of those areas and then that document kind of in its current format with a little bit more wording to it to be a little bit more explanatory narrative.
Will be essentially what we will share out for at least some initial reviews and updates or feedback from partners and things like that. In its first iteration.
Is that correct?
Jim, did I get that right?

 **Jim Snell** 12:52
Yeah, I I think so.
I think that Terry can certainly confirm as chair, but yeah, I think that was kind of the the end result of the conversation from last Friday was to now get that group back together and do a little bit more work on flushing things out a little bit more.
And and like you said, kind of adding in some of the you know I was taking notes during the meeting last week.
You know, like you said, what? What does that mean?
In terms of what are the awards programs, what are the, what are the promotion engagement activities that we do in putting in specifics under that so that it's it's clear both to us who kind of know what we're talking about and also.
To the general public, what we're talking about when we say these things.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 13:44
And Candace?

 **Candace Taylor** 13:46
I just had a quick question. Is the target date to have this portion completed by the August?
Commission meeting or is the target to have it to the other committees and have them have worked on it before the August meeting?

 **Jim Snell** 14:04
I don't have the the stick plan timeline in front of me right the 2nd, but I think the goal is to have.
Is have the committees do a little bit more work in preparation for the August meeting, so at the August meeting, the Commission can actually.
Develop the first draft of its plan.

 **Candace Taylor** 14:28
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 14:29
And then that draft plan would then go back out for public comment, and then it would be finalized.
At the the year end retreat in November.

 **Candace Taylor** 14:41
OK.
Thank you for the clarity, OK.

 **Jim Snell** 14:42
So yeah, I yeah, yeah.
So I think there's there's gonna have to be two things that happen kinda close to each other.
One is that the group of chairs and plus one.
Will have to meet fairly quickly fairly soon to kind of talk a little bit more and then the committees will have to meet before August to do a little bit of committee work so that we can start.
Start getting that kind of draft ready so that.
The entire Commission can talk about it at the August meeting.

 **Candace Taylor** 15:19
OK.
That's helpful. Thank you.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 15:22
And and Jim and prior to the August meeting, of course would be.
So we'll get to the roadshow here in a minute.
So in that pipeline, the doc, So what if we're doing these focus groups?
What people in the focus groups would be responding to would essentially be closer to what we currently have, not what we're discussing at the August meeting. Is that right?

 **Jim Snell** 15:41
Yeah, I think.
Yeah, I think what we would get in terms of public input would be input put on those kind of those four big big picture categories.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 15:42
OK.

 **Jim Snell** 15:50
And and ask the public, you know, in terms of what's going on in their communities, how could the Commission utilize its resources specifically from those?

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 15:55
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 16:02
Four primary goals within their communities and and kind of collect that input and then that would be available also in addition to the committee work.
Would be available to the Commission at the August meeting to kind of look at the public input, the committee input and then again develop that kind of draft plan with some because we do well.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 16:11
Mm hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 16:25
Let me say I I think it's best if we have some measurable goals.
The Commission doesn't have to.
I mean, the Commission can kind of develop its state plan as as it sees fit.
But I think it's better if there are some sort of measurable goals. So developing those measurable goals. I think that first step is what I think should come out of the August meeting. Is that kind of that first draft of what are the numbers gonna look like for?
These things.
And Terry, Terry had her hand up before.

 **Terry Silver** 16:56
Yeah. Thank you.
I just wanted to say Amy also, we're talking about the committee structure.
And we have a short discussion about instead of calling them committees, maybe teams, and then that's when we got into the buckets.
So we got these four buckets and so we are going to talk about how to structure our committee's teams so that we can focus on our mission and our goals.
We also talked about the Grants committee.
Which is very tiny and maybe incorporating it into either another committee team or, you know, trying to figure out how to best meet the needs of what the Grants Committee does so that they're consistent with the people who are on that, who are on that team or committ.
And also.
Yeah, that's what I want to share. I don't.
You're there for that discussion, but I think it was an important discussion that we had surrounding that.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 17:57
Other questions comments regards to the state Service plan, the any of the items we just discussed.
OK.
Well, with that so more to come on the state Service plan.
So it looks like the work is now in the hands of that, that small group of folks, and Jason, of course, will be in that team.
He wasn't able to join us for the first meeting, but he'll be invited back to that second follow up meeting.
So I think that will be good. And then Andrea as well, who's not here today, but I think she's on that list as well.
So we'll have a couple folks from our team that are offering some input and thoughts on those as well.
One added benefit of this whole process is our committee's meeting monthly.
So I feel like we're we've got the ability to to offer some quick communication and feedback more so than a couple of other committees.
So that's a nice little added benefit of being on the Frankenstein committee.
So congratulations.
With that, we've again I've probably got a hard stop at about 11:35-ish, so I'm going to transition us to the roadshow. So I am am I able to share my screen, maybe let me try.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 19:04
You should be able to.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 19:05
Are you able to see like a Word document? OK, perfect. So.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 19:07
Looks good.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 19:11
Quick quick overview of kind of where we're how we got to where we're at, cuz I know there were a couple people that are on the call today that weren't in the last one of the last two committee meetings.
So of course, been working on the roadshow the last committee meeting, I shared a document with you all that was a draft document.
It's what you said on the screen right here. This is what we went over during that that basically highlighted some high level goals.
Of what we hope to accomplish through the roadshow, increase awareness of Volunteer Tennessee and its mission at kind of a high level. Gather community input on the state Service plan.
That's the focus group component that Jim and I were just talking about and then really wanted to try to figure out a way to bring in some sort of a disaster preparedness, an emergency preparedness component that even if it was small, whether it be some education, whether it.
Be a service project.
And lots of different options.
So we had that conversation through that conversation.
And the previous committee meeting got some feedback on a couple of edits or things to add, or some focal points.
Those are what you see highlighted in yellow on this version of the document.
So if it's highlighted in yellow, that is a change or an addition.
So what was added from that conversation was, in addition to highlighting all of the broad programs that volunteer Tennessee has and just uplifting kind of the the mission and the brand, several folks mentioned wanting to really focus in on and be intentional about the service network that, that.
Is something that there's a lot of potential around, a lot of OPP.
Around and there's value in being able to do that. Boots on the ground that you can't do necessarily on social media, right? The ability why you've got the partners in the room to push it.
So that was a very intentional from a couple of folks that can we please really heavily emphasize that all the programs, but especially Tennessee serve. So that is why you see that there.
Mention specifically as well talking about kind of who the target audience is and being very intentional.
I think Candace might have brought this up and a couple of others as well-being very intentional.
All about trying to engage some of our higher Ed partners as well as those entities we have on the ground that are AmeriCorps entities but that are partnered with us.
Select the volunteer centers, perhaps?
Or some of those entities and being very intentional about how we engage and communicate with those folks because we want them at the table too, we want them to participate.
So really, for the most part, for this first goal, we talk about increased awareness of Hunter Tennessee, its mission and all of its programs.
The audience is really kind of everyone.
It's anybody that touches the Commission in some capacity, right?
Whether that be an elected official, whether that be a nonprofit or community agency, whether that be somebody utilizing the platform or whether that be somebody that perhaps is hosting AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps members, or as a program lead, right.
So everyone is essentially the target audience for that specific goal.
As opposed to, of course, the input from the state Service plan, where there's gonna be some intentionality, right?
We don't wanna room of 100 people and try to have a focus group.
That would not be effective, but being a little bit more intentional for the focus groups specifically on who's in the room, that can help us as a Commission better inform our state Service plan and then the other addition that we chatted through a little bit in that meeting.
Was that perhaps the nature of whatever we do in the disaster space might differ from location?
It might not quite be copy and paste.
It could be, but it could be in one place.
It could just be as simple as we just want to set up some sort of an informational thing and.
And just educate people.
On perhaps our programs, if there's one in that community, or perhaps if we're going in the Community that doesn't have a start program, maybe that's the goal, right?
Maybe we're intentionally setting up a meeting between our cert folks between Don and whoever, there in the community may be able to get a cert program off the ground, right?
So that may differ from location to location, but again wanting to find some, even if it's a small way to do a little bit of some issue focused work, so that that was the feedback that came from.
Our previous committee meeting again those areas.
Is in yellow, but for the most part the big buckets remain the same, increasing awareness broadly. Specifically doing focus groups and then something in the disaster, an emergency space.
So following that meeting.
Jim and Candace and I, I think it was just the three of us, had a chance to sit down and touch base and actually workshop.
The kind of meat and potatoes of the project, which is the actual locations, the actual timing, what does the day actually look like?
What are we actually doing?
And what are all the people costs that might be affiliated with those things? So as you'll see on the screen here, this is a draft, essentially a very high level draft of what we talked about in that meeting as a potential path forward.
So I wanted to share that with you all today and I'll briefly kind of highlight that. Invite Candice and Jim to offer some thoughts as well.
But before we really moved on anything, I just want to make sure that you all had a chance to say, is this the right direction?
Is this not the right direction?
Before we actually took action on any of those.
So from the conversation that Jim, Candace and I had, of course the summer is can be challenging scheduling wise.
So what we did is we did take some time to actually pull out some calendars in terms of, like, volunteer Tennessee commitment, some staff scheduling, some other key programming holidays and tentatively identified that.
Really, the middle to later half of July is probably the target time frame.
Right, June is probably too, too soon.
That also conflicts with a couple of other.
Key work areas that are taking place already with some volunteer Tennessee staff.
So again, looking at probably July later, July after 4th of July, again these could be concurrent.
So this could be, you know, a couple of these visits, site visits are taking place over a couple of days back-to-back to back.
It could be that or it could be that they're just scattered throughout that period, right?
There may be one this week.
Another one another week another.
One another week, depending on space availability and schedules, but roughly that window of time was the time we had identified.
What we also talked about in that conversation was, is there a realistic way?
A realistic yet?
An optimistic way to prioritize locations and be a little bit more thoughtful and strategic through that conversation. We thought it may be a bit of an ask to try to squeeze in 78910 site visits.
And do these things over the period of a 3 1/2 to four weeks.
So what we thought through was, is there perhaps some intentionality behind just doing a couple during July?
With some target communities and then going back and maybe doing a second round later down the road, perhaps in the fall or later, we didn't really add timeline to that and what we landed on is a potential model for that was really focusing on the rural communities in.
July.
So focusing more on and you'll see some of the locations we brainstormed here on the screen.
We brainstormed.
Let's say we did 3-1 in each division, but focused on a little bit more of a rural or a mid size city in the division.
So Jackson, perhaps a Clarksville, and then somewhere in East Tennessee, and we brainstormed several possible locations across the village. Cleveland, which is outside of Chattanooga, if you want to be closer to the disaster space, you can perhaps come up to Moorestown or Johnson City. If you wanted to.
Dip into.
That area a little bit and be more intentional.
But really again trying to identify a location each of the three divisions focused on rural communities and then look at perhaps coming back and doing a round two.
That was a little bit more hyper focused on the metro areas.
And part of the justification behind that was, and I appreciated Candace sharing this during the meeting as somebody who's in the Memphis area was.
Sometimes it's easier to get people if you think about Memphis to Jackson.
Sometimes it's easier to get people to come from Memphis to Jackson than it is to get people from Jackson to come to Memphis.
So the ability to just from a travel perspective from a not wanting to go into the city, you know, I mean that the same could be same for any of the metro areas, right.
Whether you're talking about Knoxville, Chattanooga and Nashville.
So again, focusing on rural perhaps would still allow others to participate, but would offer some intentionality.
And then again, if we feel like it's going well, we could extend that beyond.
So that was a little bit around timing and locations.
What does a visit actually look like?
We spent some time on that too.
And what we envisioned again high level is imagine in one space starting off with some sort of a high level volunteer Tennessee reception welcome.
So this is probably a couple of talking heads from a podium or with a microphone, right?
A gym or some staff from perhaps a terrier Commissioners. Whoever might be there.
Again, some high level overviews.
Maybe there's some swag or materials that we're giving out right information about some of the programs and in that room though, again, is all of those people we talked about earlier, right?
If you've got elected officials that are in the area, you got your nonprofit partners. If you've got a mayor, core house, anybody that is in any way directly or indirectly connected to the Commission or the work of Volunteer Tennessee or I will add, is that has the pot.
To be I think that's very important, right?
There's a lot of folks that I think could benefit from Volunteer Tennessee that perhaps aren't currently connected.
We of course, would extend some invitations to those kinds of folks as well, but really some sort of a high level welcome.
Imagine a little bit more like a reception like you would have, you know, a 3045 minute something before a larger.
A chance for people to just connect talk network a little bit and then we would follow that up with a more limited by invite Focus Group. So some of those people would stay to do a focus group and we would be obviously we don't necessarily need our elect.
Officials there for the focus groups, right?
They're not.
They're not really our target audience, but we would love to have them there in the room when we're doing the reception.
So that's kind of what the day looks like. And then again as a part of that tagging on some sort of a disaster component.
I'll pause on next steps and action items.
So just with that, Jim, Candace, you all were in those conversations.
What did I miss in terms of our discussion?
I'm sure I miss something.

 **Candace Taylor** 29:13
OK.
No, I think you wrapped it up. Sounds good to me.
Sounds good to me.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 29:21
Katie.

 **Katie Goforth** 29:27
Microphone. There we go. There's the mic.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 29:28
There you go. We can hear you.

 **Katie Goforth** 29:32
I'm wondering if you would consider doing like a Northeast Tennessee and then SE Tennessee because of the time change the distance from Southeast Tennessee to those NE Tennessee communities that definitely need.
A conversation up in the northeast.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 29:53
So you're thinking more like a like a Chattanooga?

 **Katie Goforth** 29:54
But also doing one in the southeast.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 29:56
Like a Chattanooga or something. And then, yeah.

 **Katie Goforth** 29:56
Something or outside of Chattanooga, right? Because it is a, it is a good.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 30:00
OK.

 **Katie Goforth** 30:02
I don't know.
I think it's like a four hour drive from from southeast to northeast because of that slant that goes up in there so.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 30:06
It is.
It is that.
That's double.
Thank you.
That's helpful, Nestor.

 **Nestor Reyes** 30:20
Good morning, everyone.
I'm sorry, I started talking with I'm on mic being on.
It's good to see everyone here.
Thank you for your Grace and mercy all the time.
I missed a couple of the last two, so I appreciate the Amy just the the the overview and all that.
Thank you guys so much for getting me caught up.
Have a question for you guys, Nathan? The Clarksville, a J's. A JC.
Do you guys have a place that will facilitate?
That Clarksville area and the reason I say that.
A JC.
It's it's, it's beautiful, it's big, it encompasses.
The four Campbell there, the transitioning soldiers and some of them retire when they come out.
We have about 300 soldiers almost a month that come out.
I think it'd be a great opportunity if you can use the AJC there in Clarksville, we have it.
Let me know if you'd like to. I'll get you in contact with the the AJC.
You know, partners that we have in there so that you can have see if you can have it there.
I think the hosting would be amazing.
Since we have our military family members and their transitioning, it would be great.
That's the suggestion partner.
I just want to offer that OK for Clarksville area, if you if you don't have that already set up.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 31:25
That is very helpful and for some context. Thank you Nestor for some context. One of the items and this is on kind of that next step action items. So what we had discussed is if we could really perhaps in this Commission meeting and I know we were close.
To time, if we go ahead and lock in and say, yeah, we feel good about these three or perhaps 4 to Kitty's point cities, then we could be intentional and start doing some reach out to see if we've got some partners in those spaces that would be.
Willing.
To serve as a site host for whatever this event is.
Course we're looking for some specific types of space because we need to have a little bit of a reception and also some focus groups, right? So so looking for some certain space parameters, but I think Nestor, to your point, right, if we're able to say we want to.
Go here.
And here's the date range.
Do we have any takers?
Right. It sounds like we got our first one, which is great.
And Candace, I think just asked a question about is it available?
And Esther says it is right.
So the work is already happening.
Wonderful. Wonderful.
Other big thoughts and feedback.
Back in terms of around timeline around locations, is there something we're missing? Yeah, Candace.

 **Candace Taylor** 32:33
If anybody has any ideas that you just like, sort of like what Nestor said, do you just want them to send it to like you and you send it to me and Jim just include everybody in the reply e-mail. Like, how would that how would taking those sort?
Of happen between now and the next meeting.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 32:50
Yeah, definitely.
I'm OK with what you just proposed, unless you have something Candice or Jim that you would prefer differently.
But I'm OK with what you just proposed of it, just to end an e-mail.
Here's CC these three people and go from there.
But if you would rather they go directly to you or something different, do you have a recommendation, Candace?

 **Candace Taylor** 33:11
No, just trying to just just trying to put some.
Just trying to, you know, put those boots on the ground and I know that you have to leave.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 33:20
Perfect.

 **Candace Taylor** 33:20
So if anybody has any ideas or any welcome facilities, just go ahead and send them to send them to the whole group.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 33:25
Mm hmm.

 **Candace Taylor** 33:29
Me, Nathan. The gym. However, that works.
But and then we can sort of vet them from from there.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 33:35
Yeah. And we can include that in the follow up e-mail as well.
We'll we'll remind you.

 **Candace Taylor** 33:39
OK.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 33:39
But yeah, I think that would be good.
And so just everybody on the screams aware.

 **Candace Taylor** 33:41
That's perfect.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 33:43
So again, we're looking at this window of kind of like second-half to later July.
So again, it's like if it's only free two or three days in that window, that might still be OK, right?
So as long as we know what the location is and the possibilities and where in that window, it might be free, I think that would then probably allow Candice Gem and I to sit down and map out what this beast might look like.
Right. OK. We know we have some space options here.
We've got some space options here and we can puzzle piece it a little bit, but I think that that sounds great, Candace.
So let me ask this, what are what are the groups thought? And this might be a Candice and Jim question as well on this idea of a fourth location doing a SE versus a NE. As somebody who's in Northeast Tennessee, I can say I love that idea.
Northeast Tennessee feels as though they are in no way connected to Chattanooga.
That might as well be in Europe.
So I mean, I love that idea.
I know logistically that's one more location, but I don't know. Candace. Jim, do you all have any thoughts or concerns about the feasibility of that?

 **Jim Snell** 34:50
Yeah, yeah, I.
Just really just.
In terms?
Of when we want to get them done.
You know if.
Yeah, sorry.
Yeah, I think that would be kind of the only thing is like when we want to get these done, you know, because we talked about having a couple before the August meeting and then some after.
Just timing wise, it'd be hard to fit in a whole lot before the August meeting, but we can do is I think we can do as many as we want after the August meeting.
The.
Just the the component about the state plan might change a little bit.
So rather than getting just kind of general input on those big picture goals after the August meeting, we could be getting input on the specific measurable draft plan.
So it's, but we could still do that.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 35:54
Thank you, Jim.
Other big thoughts, feedback around timeline and locations.
'Cause, I thought that that's probably the priority at this moment.
'Cause that gives us the ability to start looking at some actual details.
The one what I would also add and then I'll probably have to hop off here in just a moment. What I would also add is when we say locations and site hosts.
Candice's laugh when I say this.
We're hoping for free. That is the that is the goal.
It's for free.
Our goal is to really try to pull these off for little to minimal cost, obviously.
There's gonna be costs around getting staff and travel time and and hotel.
I mean, those costs are gonna exist regardless, but in terms of like the work it takes to actually do the events and we're trying to keep them as fairly low cost as possible, we know we may still need a few dollars and maybe some sponsors for some food.
Or some light refreshments or something.
Coffee, whatever it might be, but keeping them as low cost. So as you're brainstorming some potential locations, whether it be something you control or somebody else.
Just know our ASK is that they're ideally $0.00 signs.
Is that correct, Candace? OK.

 **Candace Taylor** 37:00
Yep, I couldn't have said it better myself.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 37:01
So I just want to add that.

 **Candace Taylor** 37:03
Couldn't have said it better.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 37:03
Yeah, just add that we have no budget.
So that is on the golf, yes.
So OK, with that, I really do have to hop off.
I am going to invite if folks, I mean, there's theoretically still about 15 more minutes if folks have a couple of other comments.
Latifah, Candace, Jim if you all wanna jot those down, perhaps. But I think if if we feel good about the location situation and Candace and Jim and I can pull back together either via e-mail and and I'll chat with them and really lock these in and maybe start.
Sending out some \*\*\*, but if you know some locations already that you think you're willing to offer up or get us connected to, start sending them our way, I think that would be helpful.
So OK, I'm gonna.

 **Amy Walter** 37:42
I have a quick.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 37:43
Yeah, yeah.

 **Amy Walter** 37:45
OK.
So when we.
Holding this event, is it like an open to the public thing or is there a set invite list?
Cause.
How public the space we reserve might rest on that. If it's people can just show up and you know in our case I could probably arrange a room for free. But.
Everybody coming would have to be on a guest list.
And be able to be admitted. We have to make sure we have parking and all that kind of thing because we're not really open to just people showing up.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 38:20
No.

 **Amy Walter** 38:20
So I mean that might make a difference to where we do it. Same with some universities.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 38:22
Mm hmm.
Yep, Yep. I would say from my perspective.
And then Candace and Jim, because their perspectives may differ, I don't think I necessarily probably envision this as a here's the location, date and time drop by on Facebook.
I don't think it's.
I don't think I envisioned it that way. I think in my mind it to your point, Amy was probably we're sending it.
We've got an invite list.
It may be a big invite list, right?
But we've got an invite list that we forward invitations out to, and some folks are RSVP ING.
So I I don't in my mind, I envisioned as that we're going to be here from.
This time to this time, drop by at your convenience. Come one, come all.
Maybe that's maybe that's what we're doing. I don't think that's actually what I had envisioned.
Candice, you probably have thoughts on and maybe not.

 **Candace Taylor** 39:07
I honestly hadn't thought about the invitation list just yet, so I'm not really sure.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 39:07
But.
Yeah.
I would say one barrier if we did it more public would be if you don't know who's coming and you're talking about costs and needs and space, that's probably more challenging, right?
If it truly is just kind of a drop by pop up at your own convenience, kind of an event, but especially if you're trying to do like a reception with some light refreshments, right, light refreshments for 40 people is very different than light refreshments for 100 and.
50 people.
So I think just some very logistic questions as well.
But I think we're on my head is Amy is. It's probably a little bit more invite.
If that answers your question.
OK.
Other big thoughts.
OK.
So here's what I'm going to do.
I will type up.
I'll add a couple of more.
Quick notes, I'm going to quit so I actually can see your all saces.
I'm going to quit sharing my screen.
I will type up a couple of those quick notes. Candace and Jim, I'll reach out to you all and we can chat. I think through on how next steps for us. But for those of you on the screen, if you already know of some locations we've already got.
Or some potential locations.
Again, you've got some rough dates.
And again, we'll show those via e-mail.
Go ahead and feel free to send those to Candice Gemini and we'll try to maybe compile a little bit of a list that we can at least work off of.
Of course, this is not locking us into anything because we don't quite know where we're going to be and when.
But at least we'll have some options to play with.
But I think that at this moment in time, that's probably our biggest next step because you can't do invitations you really can't plan anything else until you know when and where you're doing it. So.
Jim. Candace latifah. Anything else from you all?
Now give everybody some time back.
Latifah OK11 question.
Latifah on your comments, Latifah says.
We could potentially ask some corporate partners to donate a location. I love that idea.
My one question would be would.
Are there any concerns with that in terms of? I know we didn't want this entity to be a we brought them together to ask them for money or for space.
So 'cause, I know we were intentional about that. So I don't want to abuse that relationship, right?

 **Latiyfa Fields** 41:22
Yeah, this is what I'm thinking.
The only reason why I bring it up is because I referenced this to Nikki and Nikki was like we should act.
And so I was like, oh, let's think about it and I think we'll talk about that in our meeting on Thursday, yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 41:35
Yeah. And I I think what you're now that's OK. I I think asking for space is is different than asking for money that you know.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 41:36
That's what I mean.
Yeah. Yeah, sorry.
Go, Jim.

 **Jim Snell** 41:45
We'll ask all of our partners if they have space for us.
You know, so it it. It won't be like we're we're just singling out the corporate social purpose folks.
We'll we'll ask all of our partners if they if they have space and can host us.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 42:02
OK.
Thank you all so much, Candice.
Jim Latifah I'll I'll reach out and follow up.
Thank you everyone.
This has been great.
You get 15 minutes back.
Enjoy it. If it's like here. It's rainy and stormy and super gross. There's not much to enjoy, but make the most of it.
And we'll see you all soon, OK?

 **Candace Taylor** 42:18
Thank you, Nathan. Bye all.

 **Latiyfa Fields** 42:19
Because everyone thinks Ethan. Bye, guys.

 **Farnor, Nathaniel James** 42:19
Thank you all so much.

 **Jim Snell** 42:19
Thanks everybody.
Bye bye.

 **Latiyfa Fields** stopped transcription