

Ankeny Area Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 | 6:30PM

Attendance:

Asa Hutton	Karla Kasper	Renee Heberer	Norm McCleary
Janet Willey	John Wolff	Carmine Boal	JoAnn Adamson
Lois O'Donnell	Madison Zirretta	Dr. Erick Pruitt	Bob Fontana

The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM.

Minutes: The minutes from the June 24, 2025 board meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Carmine Boal, Second: John Wolff, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The following reports were shared by X.

- CD maturing on July 24th - considering rolling it over unless we have any large expenses coming up. We have a large bill for insurance and for the sump pump that will need to be paid. Between the money market and checking account, we have enough to just roll over the CD. Also, discussed current interest rates and the length of the term.
- Community Foundation balance is being updated quarterly and we have seen an increase in that amount. We are seeing about a 9% return over the last 10 months.
- Reviewed the Budget vs. Actual report for this last month, as well as our Expense report.
- The insurance bill is due at the beginning of August 2025.
- Discussed the results of the Sesquicentennial, including large donations that were made Lamberti, Elwell, and the City of Ankeny.
- A portion of the Bravo Grant money was used towards printing posters, banners, and flags for the Sesquicentennial.

Motion: Bob Fontana, Second: Renee Heberer, Approved

Office Manager's Report:

- Reviewed memberships, merchandise sales, and donations.
- Discussed individuals who are sending in new membership forms as a result of the Sesquicentennial event.

General Obligation Bond: Presented by Dr. Erick Pruitt, ACSD Superintendent

- Shared a historical view of past bonds which allowed our city to build Centennial High School and new elementary schools (Heritage, Abbie Grove).
- The GO Bond overview shares what ACSD would like to achieve through Phase I.
- Bond funding can not be used towards teacher/employee salaries.
- Innovative Hub (80 million)

- Innovative Hub - located in the parking lot of Northview. The purpose is to nurture the needs of our students (academic, fine arts, activities, athletics), and bring Agriculture and Health Sciences to Ankeny.
- Discussed the size and space of the Innovative Hub. The approximate cost will be 81 million of the 130 million, and would take approximately 24 months to complete.
- This will require grade level reconfiguration within the school buildings.
- The Innovative Hub will relieve pressure from the 10-12 buildings, allowing our freshman students to be within the high school buildings. This will reduce the amount of transitions for our students (academic data tends to dip when students move buildings).
- Projected finish date - Fall 2028. Freshmen students will move to the high school buildings in the Fall of 2029.
- There is no "testing" into the Innovative Hub. You need to be an ACSD student and have a desire to pursue post-secondary plans.
- This plan will also have experiences for our elementary students and will allow those students to have a more effective outlook on their course choosings in the future.
- Shared baseball/softball fields will be moved to Southview so there is adequate parking for Ankeny Stadium, Northview, and Innovative Hub.
- Athletic & Activities Performance Center (30 million)
 - Turf field, track, and space for cheerleaders and dance team to utilize.
 - This will optimize space so that we aren't bussing students to and from buildings for practices. The performance center will allow for more space for practices.
- Practice & Storage Space for the Fine Arts (5 million)
- Upgrades to High School Gymnasiums
 - Lighting, sound systems, etc.
- Ankeny Stadium Renovations (Visitor Side)
 - Provide additional storage for athletics and activities
- Future Bonds - the next bond would occur in 2029
- Reviewed the land/property that the school district currently owns for future expansion.
- Questions by AAHS Board Members:
 - Clarity around grade reconfiguration
 - Discussed differences in other Des Moines Metro schools/communities (ex: Waukee). How does this impact taxes? Why are we using GO Bond? How does this impact our district's amount of debt?
 - Property taxes will go down by five cents.
 - Will ACSD partner with local institutions (DMACC, etc.) to design instruction for various courses, pathways, etc.?
 - Helped to brainstorm other ideas where Dr. Pruitt could share his message.

New/Current Business:

A. Ice Cream Social, August 24th (Karla & Asa)

- a. Reviewed last year's event and have decided which direction they want to go this coming year.
- b. Need volunteers for the event (set up, volunteers, floaters, etc.)

- c. Bob Fontana will request 15-20 gallons of vanilla ice cream from HyVee as a donation.
- d. We shouldn't need to request any water - we will use leftover water bottles from the Chicken Dinner.
- e. The Urbandale Band will play at the event, and the Ankeny Police Department will be recognized at the event.
 - i. Ask if the Police Department will bring an old car or a K9 officer.

B. Pumpkins

- a. John planted the pumpkins. There is a good crop. We are way ahead of where we were at this point last year. Asa said we are in a good place for pumpkins right now!
- b. Early-Mid September: Will need volunteers to pick pumpkins.

C. Committee for New Board Members & Officers 2026

- a. Carmine will continue with this committee. Janet Willey and Bob Fontana will also join the committee. We will need to vote on new board members/officers in November so they can start in January.
- b. Determine whose term is "up" and who wants to reinstate.
- c. Current members have ideas of who would be great additions to the board.

D. September - Fall/Winter Hours

- a. Volunteer for upcoming weekends.

E. Fix Steps to West House Porch

- a. The steps where the railings attach are starting to fall apart. We can fix them temporarily with glue before the winter season, and then fix them permanently next year. Joe is willing to do the repair.

F. Time Capsule at City Hall

- a. City time capsule - Information was saturated from floods, but some things were salvageable. JoAnn shared the list of the 21 items that were put into the time capsule.
- b. AAHS has their own time capsule which will be opened in 2048.
- c. Consider if we want to do a time capsule for the 150th celebration. We will think on this and determine in the next few months if we want to move forward with this project.

G. New Sump Pump in House Basement

- a. The sump pump went out mid-July. The sump pump overflowed into the basement. Premier Plumbing was able to come in and install a new pump. The pump has been monitored for a week and a half, and it has been working well. Asa cleaned out the pump on 7/22 and sealed it today.

H. Team With Library to Display Ankeny's History on Social Media

- a. Molly Guerra - She would like to put information on the history of Ankeny on the Kirkendall Library's social media platforms (Facebook).
- b. Direct her to look at our website, specifically Ankeny Through the Decades, and encourage her to come over for a tour.

Old Business:

- A. Committee Reports:** None reported.

B. Partnering with The District for Signage

- a. Heritage Corner: Would like to set up some type of dedication. ACSD communication specialists would be present to take photographs. Family members would be present, as well as putting an article in Ankeny Living Magazine. Possibly the first weekend of November?
- b. Lamberti Plaque: This should be done in the next few months. We could potentially include this dedication with the Heritage corner dedication.
- c. Farmland to Frontier Project: Recognizing the farmers who had to get off of their land, forced by the federal government. Bob Fontana met with Dennis Albaugh, and decided to write the story and come up with the brush steel model.
 - i. Bob has visited multiple civic meetings/organizations and has presented the plaque to these people. AAHS will keep the brushed steel model of the plaque.
 - ii. The plate will be black with gold lettering and gold trim. Footings will be dug and the mount will be approximately 4 feet tall. The plate will be installed in the Town Center within The District.
 1. The Chamber and Dennis Albaugh want the plate to be a part of the recognition. Families of the farmers will also be included.
 2. Bob shared a copy of the war contract that his second cousin gave him.

C. Reminder: Volunteers at Upcoming Events & Open Houses

Future, Long-Term Projects:

A. Partnering for Events:

B. Research Old Building of Uptown:

C. Partnering with Faith Baptist:

Miscellaneous Items:

- Ask Stephanie to clarify the number of tickets that were sold for the Sesquicentennial Chicken Dinner, so that we have a better understanding of profit (ticket presales, cash sales on the day of, credit card sales on the day of, etc.).
- AAHS pole banners are being hung along 3rd Street. There will be a total of five banners.
- Next newsletter - Pictures to be included (Ankeny Family pictures at AMP and in the car, Neveln girls, and alumni members with Floppy).
- Request: We need help with picking weeds. Rasmussen Lawn Care was here (7/22) to spray for weeds.

End Time: The meeting ended at 8:16PM.

Motion to adjourn by Asa Hutton, Second: Bob Fontana. Approved.

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Madison Fontana Zirretta