

Ankeny Area Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23rd | 6:30PM

Attendance:

Bob Fontana	Rob Logan	Andy Logan	Norm McCleary
JoEllen Nervig	Asa Hutton	Rosemary Hutton-Taylor	Lois O'Donnell
JoAnn Adamson	Madison Zirretta	Joe Pitts	John Wolff
Tierra Mayberry	Addy	Renee Heberer	

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM initially, the meeting started officially at 6:44PM.

Minutes: The minutes from the August 26, 2025 board meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Rosemary Hutton-Taylor , Second: Andy Logan, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The following notes were provided by John Wolff

- The 2024 Tax Report was finalized and shared at tonight's meeting.
- Prior to the October meeting, the budget will be discussed for the upcoming year. Costs such as mowing, landscaping, Heritage Corner, etc. will be considered when discussing the budget.
- Lois, JoAnn, John, and Joe will work together to discuss the budget for next year. John will work on preparing the proposed 2026 budget to have available for us to view at our next meeting.
- A Sesquicentennial Summary document was shared. Additional proceeds for the Chicken Dinner will be added. The net profit was also shared.
- Balance Sheet Highlights
 - Checking account balance was shared and compared to previous years
 - Endowment Fund - updated once a quarter, balance was shared for this fund, discussed meeting with the account advisor to gain additional insight on the endowment fund. Rob Logan, John Wolff, and a Greater DSM Foundation representative will meet and report back to us during the October meeting.
- Budget vs. Actual
 - Membership dues have decreased. Discussed whether this was a typical trend for this time of year or other factors that may be causing a decrease in memberships. We also discussed reengaging the membership committee (Carmine, Bob, JoAnn, Rob, and Andy). A meeting will be set up with this committee to discuss details.
 - Ice Cream Social - Expenses were shared, as well as profits.. Profits increased this year.
 - We are over our projected budget for income from donations and grants.
 - The accounting fees were shared, including tax preparation fees.

- o Intern wages and security system expenses were discussed. Other expenses will continue to be monitored so that we don't exceed our budget.

Motion: Rob Logan , Second: Renee Heberer , Approved

Office Manager's Report: The office manager's report was shared for viewing

New/Current Business:

A. Pumpkins Update

- We will try to sell pumpkins at Pumpkins & Pints when we can be paid directly before we set them out for pick up at the house.
- We are a few weeks behind schedule for pumpkins. We also discussed what next year may look like - we may need to find a different field to use for pumpkin planting.
- Discussed what additional help could look like for picking pumpkins and when "helpers" can go out there to help pick. Jim Brazelton left his cutting kit out at the fields so that others can utilize the tools to help cut. Asa will also leave his cutters so that others can utilize them.
- Jim has gourds and mini pumpkins that will be ready to distribute for Trunk or Treat Night.

B. Chili Cook-Off & Apple Pie Contest (October 5th, 2-4PM)

- Steve Van Oort has been asked to judge the contest.
- Lois has purchased sample cups. Tickets will be \$10 each and attendees will get to try a sample of each chili, one full bowl of chili, and a slice of apple pie.
- Lois has a list of individuals bringing apple pie (JoAnn, Madison, Nancy, Asa, Lois, Stephanie, Laura, Joe, Tierra) and individuals who will bring crockpots of chili (Lois, Steve, Asa, Larry/Jacob, Joni Walters, Madison, Bob/Andy, Rob, Tierra).
- Discussed setting up for the Chili Cook-Off in the middle of the week leading up to the event. Pies and chili should be dropped off at the house by 1PM on October 5th.
- Decorations and prizes have been purchased.

C. Heritage Corner Dedication & Honoring Veterans (November 2nd, 2-4PM)

- The event will be called "Salute Our Veterans".
- Three informational speakers have been scheduled.
 - Liz's Mom - Blue Star Mom Organization (care packages for activity military)
 - Larry Wright - Gold Star Museum (2 presentations, 35 min. each; History of Camp Dodge OR Larry's service history), meeting attendees discussed using the Camp Dodge presentation. Consider asking Larry to stay for the end and share his second presentation OR invite him back next year.
 - VA Benefits Representative
- Heritage Corner Dedication will also take place on this date. This portion of the event will take place at 1PM. We will have refreshments for (fruit, sweets, iced tea, lemonade) attendees and veterans.
- Bob Fontana has the contacts for the majority of the individuals being honored.

- e. Stephanie is going to follow up with the editor of Ankeny Living to handle publicity of the event and take photographs. The school district will also attend to take pictures since it is on school district property.
- f. We need to tidy up the corner so that it looks nice for the event. Bob, Andy, and Rob will take on this responsibility.

D. Holiday Plans (December 7th)

- a. Madison will head up the Cookie Sale again this year. We would like to change the location to the Barn for easier accessibility. A few board members will reach out to their contacts to see if a Santa is available.
- b. Team: Madison, Renee, JoAnn, JoEllen, Lois, Karla, Alexa, and Tierra. This team will schedule a separate meeting to discuss details for the event.

E. Uptown Special Events & Participants

- a. Pumpkins & Pints:
 - i. Asa already has the trailer, bales of hay, and inflatable scarecrows. We will take the American Gothic piece up to the event location to be a part of the photo backdrop. Lois is also going to check on our assigned spot for the event so we know where to set up.
 - ii. The plan is to set up the event on Saturday morning. The event is on Saturday, October 4th from 4-8PM. Payment options will include cash, Venmo, or credit card.
- b. Halloween Trunk or Treat (10/9, 4-8PM)
 - i. We will need candy donations. We will also use leftover trinkets and candy from the "Back to School" event.
 - ii. We will also have 200-300 small pumpkins to distribute
 - iii. We will use Jim Brazelton's four-wheeler to decorate with signage. Tierra offered her decorating kit for the event, as well.
- c. Champagne & Mistletoe (11/14)
 - i. We will open the house and barn during the event so that families can tour.
 - ii. Decorating Day: November 6th, 10AM-3PM - this will ensure the house is decorated in time for the event. TNT will be putting exterior lights up at their convenience. There will also be garland on the exterior of the house.
 - iii. We are considering the idea of having hot cocoa, cider, and/or cookies. We will need to think about the location of this because we don't want people walking around the museum with food/drink.

Old Business:

A. Committee for New Board Members & Officers for 2026

B. Committee Reports

- a. Bob and Andy shared a few individuals who may be interested in joining the board. At the least these individuals (Andy Pollock and Beau Gerke) could be assets in helping us with our social media presence.
 - i. Andy Pollock would like to become involved with some of our committees and has expressed interest in future board representation.
 - ii. Beau Gerke could utilize his drone service to put together a 360 degree tour of AAHS.
- b. Rosemary shared some updates for her committee:
 - i. The second floor barn closet has been reorganized. Please do not touch or move anything.
 - ii. Rosemary, Nicholas, and Liz will continue to work on Thursday from 10AM-3PM each week.
 - iii. JoAnn's school desk will be rehomed to Madison's elementary school.
 - iv. Please do not put any items in the stairway.
 - v. The 15 video interviews are now up and running on two of the TVs in the barn. They will also be on the website.

Future, Long-Term Projects:

A. Partnering for Events:

B. Research Old Building of Uptown:

C. Partnering with Faith Baptist:

Miscellaneous:

-JoAnn shared a piece of literature regarding the history of Ankeny.

-We need to focus the security cameras on the pumpkin area going forward.

-The placement of trash cans seems to be helping with litter.

-We submitted the Bravo request on 9/22 to cover generic projects and costs.

-Oralabor Settlement

-We will meet with Tierra after the holidays to come up with display ideas and discuss what artifacts we can incorporate into the museum.

-We are still searching for a complete picture of the original Neveln Gym.

-Dave Baker will be a future board member. He could not attend tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment.

End Time: The meeting ended at 8:30PM.

Motion to adjourn by Rob Logan, Second: Andy Logan. Approved.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 28,, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Madison Fontana Zirretta