

Ankeny Area Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 - DRAFT

Attendance:

Madison Zirretta	Rosemary Hutton Taylor	Rob Logan
Renee Heberer	Lois O'Donnell	Karla Kasper
Norm McCleary	Liz Ernst	John Wolff
Bob Fontana	Janet Willey	Dave Baker

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

Agenda Review: Approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the July 23, 2026 board meeting were reviewed. An addition to attendance was made.

Motion: Rob Logan, Second: John Wolff, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The reports were reviewed by John Wolff at tonight's meeting.

- Reviewed "Balance Sheet". Discussed the donation and the amount we have paid for the new sign.
- Profit & Loss Statement: A few large memorials have been received. These were also listed in the Office Manager's Report. Insurance recovery covered the ServPro costs from the flooding. Our insurance payment is due soon. A donation from a family associated with the Mill Pond photos made a donation. Profit from a recent memorial brick was also included in the report.
- Budget vs. Actual Report: The Ice Cream Social is not reflected in this month's report.

Motion: Bob Fontana, Second: Renee Heberer, Approved.

Office Manager's Report: The office manager's report was shared by Rosemary.

- Discussed membership activity, as well as donations and memorials. We also discussed recent merchandise sales.

Old Business:

A. Gene Samuelson's Donation - Electronic Sign

- a. The goal is to get the sign installed before winter. The school district had to sign the permit. The permit has been sitting with the City of Ankeny for the last two weeks. We can not order the sign until we receive permit approval from the city. The cost of the permit was also discussed.
- b. The electricians have been here and have discussed how to install the line in the existing conduit.
- c. The size of the sign was discussed and should be approximately 8-9 feet tall.

B. Donation by AHS Class of 1963

- a. The bench is down in the basement. The bench is partially put together and we are waiting for cement to be poured.

C. Committees

- a. **Membership:** Bob Fontana is working on sending a membership link to Ankeny alumni. Carmine is working continuously on connecting with local businesses to become members.
- b. **Collections & Exhibits:**
 - i. Liz Ernst supervised the work of our interns this summer. Josie worked on displays and artifacts. She developed a few "write-ups" for exhibits, as well. Allison helped with making

new cards to label artifacts. Mallory has been helping with Open Houses and we are hopeful to have her back in the future.

- ii. Photo Policy: Reviewed the new Media Use Policy and Media Use Acknowledgment.

c. Public Relations - Uptown Meeting

- i. Newsletter is due to Stephanie by September 8th.
 - 1. Bob will submit an article for the recent recognition at the Ice Cream Social, along with photos. Dan Holm will also write a story to go in the Ankeny Fanatic. The next step is to see if the three coaches will do a podcast appearance on the Ankeny Fanatic podcast.
- ii. Uptown Meeting: No new updates.
- iii. Social Media: Stephanie and Liz have continued to facilitate our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. Evan mentioned that we should go back to creating Facebook events to draw in a larger crowd.

d. Programs/Tours/Open Houses

- i. Discussed upcoming open houses and the individuals who are signed up to host. The shift to Sunday open houses is coming up soon.
- ii. Upcoming Programs: 9/17: Corn & Khrushev, 10/4: Ghost Towns - Dave Baker, 10/8: Trunk or Treat Uptown, 10/24: Pumpkins & Pints, 11/1: DAR - Karla Wright & Karla Kasper, 11/13: Champagne & Mistletoe
- iii. We will need volunteers for these events.

**Ghost Towns Event: Dave did the presentation in Marion County and had approximately 200 people. We discussed the crowd size and having a backup plan for capacity purposes.*

e. Sustainability & Fundraising:

i. Ice Cream Social:

- 1. Karla shared the profit for this year's event, as well as attendance numbers. The attendance numbers may not have included some of the attendees that came for the coach presentation. Appreciation was shared for all of the organization of the event and the volunteers who were present.

- ii. **Pumpkin Sales:** We have started to weed the patch that is assigned to AAHS.

- iii. **Cookie Sales:** Date confirmed and the location will be in the barn. The event will be on Saturday, December 12th.

- f. Housekeeping & Landscaping Committee:** Rosemary suggested we write a Polk County Grant to hire a landscaping company to revamp our entire landscaping presence. It was mentioned to have JoAnn Adamson attend if this were to occur so she can recall if there were any donated plants, flowers, etc. The board was all in agreement that this would be a good investment for the museum to maintain the grounds.

g. Major Maintenance Committee:

- i. Sprinklers are still being tested.

- D. Silver Cord Projects:** The list was given to Carmine a few weeks ago with the intent she will communicate with school counselors. We have several scrapbook projects that students could help with.

- E. Donations:** If groups and/or individuals want to donate something, we need to continue brainstorming other ideas. Liz Ernst is formatting a list similar to a "wishlist".

- F. Iowa Museum Conference:** The dates are October 18th-20th in Ames. Rosemary, Liz, and Evan will be attending. The conference will include lectures and breakout sessions. Dave Baker also expressed interest in attending. A proposal for AAHS to cover the cost of Dave's attendance was made. The result is included below.

Motion: Rob Logan, Second: Bob Fontana, Approved.

New/Current Business:

- A. Central Iowa Historical Alliance Quarterly Meeting:** September 3rd in Urbandale, IA from 6-7:30PM. If you want to tour the house, the tours will take place from 5-6PM.
- B. Polk County Goldstar Memorial:** This will take place on September 13th.
- C. September Board Meeting:** Sign up sheets for the 2027 year will be available.

Miscellaneous Notes:

- The group discussed bringing artifacts up from the basement more frequently. Dave discussed coming together and brainstorming ideas of exhibits that would be appealing to our members and crowds. He mentioned putting together interactive types of exhibits. We also discussed rotating the display corner every three months or quarterly. The next exhibit for the display corner will be focused on telecommunications (phones, morse code, etc.).
- One of the interns (Josie) came up with a form for display/exhibit proposals.
- Floppy T-Shirts: Rosemary called Raygun to see if we could create some type of t-shirt design. Raygun directed Rosemary to contact the state about permissions. This led to calling the family of Floppy. Rosemary is still waiting to hear back from the family regarding permissions. Ideally, we would like to have a webstore for Floppy t-shirts.
- Ankeny First United Methodist donated a copy of their recent book celebrating 150 Years.

End Time: The meeting ended at 7:36PM.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Fontana, Second: Janet Willey. Approved.

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Madison Fontana Zirretta