

PERRY CITY AMERICA 250 COMMITTEE MEETING
PERRY CITY OFFICES
MARCH 10, 2026

4:01PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Barnhill, Angie Cefalo, Anna Ostler, Jolene Eddington, Scott Hancey, Ashley Young, Jay Barnard, Nathan Tueller, Tambi Tueller, Keriann Nelson, Deb Parkinson, Carrie Hansen, Brittney Zieseniss, Tyra Bischoff, Anita Nicholas, Zach Allen, Stacy Thompson and Misty Moesser

ITEM 1: Welcome & Opening Remarks

Bob Barnhill welcomed those in attendance and noted that Shanna Johnson, who typically leads the planning meetings, was unable to attend.

Introductions of Attendees

The committee members introduced themselves and outlined the roles they fulfill in the planning and organization of the 4th of July celebration.

Why This Celebration Will Be Extra Special

Mr. Barnhill emphasized that 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States, making this Fourth of July celebration particularly significant. The committee aims to make the event extra memorable by incorporating special America 250 elements while maintaining Perry's beloved small-town tradition.

ITEM 2: Celebrating Tradition

Quick Look at Perry City's Favorite 4th of July Traditions

The committee discussed what makes Perry's celebration special. Committee members highlighted the small-town feel where everyone gathers at the park and sees their neighbors, creating a genuine community atmosphere.

Participants appreciated that Perry's celebration spans multiple days rather than just one afternoon, giving families flexibility to participate in various events according to their schedules.

ITEM 3: America 250 Vision

Ideas to Incorporate America 250 into Our Celebration

Mr. Barnhill presented several ideas for incorporating the America 250 theme into the celebration.

Flagpole Raising at New City Hall

The committee discussed installing a flagpole at the new city hall with an accompanying ceremony. This would include a time capsule containing items from 2026 to be opened in the future. They proposed inviting past mayors who are still living to participate in the ceremony and contribute items to the time capsule.

Angie Cefalo suggested having families fill out simple forms about their children's current interests and favorite things, which could serve as a launching point for families to create their own time capsules at home.

Walk 250 Added to Our 5K/Mile Run

The committee discussed incorporating the Walk 250 initiative into their existing race events, though specific details needed further research and coordination.

ITEM 4: Community Brainstorm

New Activities, Entertainment, and Patriotic Ideas

Several creative ideas were proposed:

A patriotic photo booth was suggested with props and backdrops. Members mentioned electronic photo booth options that can be rented and provide instant printouts or digital copies.

The idea of having people dress as founding fathers like Ben Franklin and George Washington for photo opportunities was discussed. The committee discussed displaying large reproductions of the Declaration of Independence for children to sign.

A patriotic concert or program was suggested, with Keriann Nelson and Carrie Hansen from Aspire Performance Academy announcing they would present a 30-minute musical called "Song and Dance Man" about George M. Cohan, who wrote many patriotic songs. This would be performed at the church across from the park on July 3rd at 6:00 PM, concluding before the evening's other activities.

A beard contest was proposed, suggesting it should be announced early to give participants time to grow their beards.

Youth Activities

The committee confirmed that Aspire Performance Academy would continue organizing games on the Fourth of July, with plans to add more activities and incorporate America 250 themes. They shared that the games last year had gone well.

Angie Cefalo expressed interest in having the entire family run dressed in historical costumes, suggesting themes like Ben Franklin, presidents, or Betsy Ross for all participants in the mile run.

Community Contests or Competitions

The beard contest was the primary new competition discussed, along with continued traditional activities.

How We Can Make This Year Bigger and Better

The discussion centered on the drone show replacing traditional fireworks, which was already planned. This decision was made partly due to ongoing fire safety concerns. The committee acknowledged this might receive mixed reactions but felt it was worth trying, especially since other nearby communities would still have traditional fireworks displays.

ITEM 5: Budget & Sponsorship Opportunities

Overview of Preliminary Budget

No specific budget details were discussed in Shanna's absence.

Discussion of Sponsorships and Community Partnerships

Tyra Bischoff mentioned that Shanna had discussed tweaking their donation letter to local businesses, potentially offering logo placement opportunities such as featuring business logos in the drone show.

Fundraising Opportunities

No specific fundraising initiatives were detailed beyond the sponsorship discussions.

ITEM 6: Committee Assignments

Identify Chairman or Committees for Each Event (i.e. Parade, Carnival, Flagpole, Drone Show, Race, etc.)

The committee reviewed ongoing responsibilities:

Aspire Performance Academy: Games on July 4th and the George M. Cohan musical on July 3rd

Deb Parkinson: Awards ceremony

Nathan and Tammy Tueller: DJ services, dance, and help with the race

Jay Barnard: Car show at City Hall, with interest in having high school auto shop students judge vehicles

Scott Hancey: Police department activities

Ryan Jackson: Softball tournament with championship game scheduled for 1:00 PM

Tesla Hancey: Movie night

First Responders: Breakfast

Angie Cefalo: Walk 250

Brittney Zieseniss: Parade

Zach Allen: Checking to see if his family wants to do the Hamburger Stand. Angie Cefalo said they can be a backup.

Several attendees, including Jolene Eddington, Anna Ostler, Stacy Thompson and Angie Cefalo, expressed willingness to help with various activities.

Volunteer Coordination

Brittany Zieseniss confirmed she would continue organizing the parade with assistance from others. The need for parade volunteers was noted to help with lineup and coordination on the morning of the event.

ITEM 7: Timeline & Key Planning Milestones

Important Planning Deadlines

Angie Cefalo volunteered to research the Walk 250 program and provide feedback within a week rather than waiting for the next meeting, as people might need to start participating soon if it requires advance registration.

Event Schedule

The musical performance was confirmed for July 3rd at 6:00 PM, ending by 6:30 PM before the ice cream social and dance that begins at 8:30 PM. The softball championship game was set for 1:00 PM on July 4th to ensure the tournament concludes early enough for families to enjoy their holiday.

Future Meeting Schedule

No specific future meeting dates were established.

ITEM 8: Adjournment

Mr. Barnhill thanked everyone for attending the kickoff meeting and their participation in planning Perry's America 250 Fourth of July celebration. The meeting concluded with appreciation for the collaborative effort and enthusiasm shown by all committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33PM.