



International Festival 2025

A project of the City of Lawton and the McMahon Memorial Auditorium



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

September 2, 2025 – 4:30PM

Carnegie Library Town Hall

Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

Nancy Alandzes
Rosalind Asetamy
Hannah Bacani
Alicia Brierton
Reggie Brown
Molly Buckley
Fano Canton
Robert De Shade
Evelynn Fullerton
Sonia Hastings
Mylene McManus
Winnie Morita
Ben Nededog
Sann Nigh
Pat Reynolds
Kathy Rogers
Jerson Romero
Myrna Romero
Max Sasseen
Kathy Sauders
Alisha Saufoi
Page Smith
Betty Veu
lafeta Veu

Jason Poudrier
Arts & Humanities
Director

Andrea Morman
Arts & Humanities
Deputy Administrator

Michell Rosario
Arts & Humanities
Community Events
& Outreach Coordinator

Haley Moore
Arts & Humanities
Digital Media Specialist

Reagan Phillips
Arts & Humanities
Administrative Assistant

Terry Gresham
Arts and Humanities
Maintenance Tech

Call Meeting to Order: 4:33pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Asetamy, Bacani, Brierton, Brown, Canton, De Shade, Fullerton, Morita, Nededog, Nigh, Reynolds, Rogers, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Smith, Betty Veu

ABSENT: Alandzes, Buckley, Hastings, McManus, Sasseen, Sauders, Saufoi, lafeta Veu

STAFF: Poudrier, Morman, Phillips

Verify positing of meeting:

2. Action: Verification of posting time, place, and date.

Consent Agenda: The following items are considered to be routine by the International Festival Committee and will be enacted with one motion. Should discussion be desired on an item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda prior to action and considered separately.

3. Approval of past meeting minutes from August 5, 2025.

4. Approval of financials from August 2025.

Motion by Brierton to approve the August 5, 2025 meeting minutes and to accept the financial report from August 2025. Second by Asetamy.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Report

5. Thomas reported that they are working on getting the T-Shirts. She also urged the committee to take some of the new yard signs and place them out in Lawton to promote the festival. Thomas also reported that stickers to update the past year's yard signs have been ordered and are expected by the end of the week.

Vice Chair's Report:

6. none

Committee Reports:

7. Vendors

Phillips reported that because it is too close to the festival date, they should not accept any new vendors. She reported that Friday there will be a tabletop emergency management exercise and Lawton Fire and Police have suggested to stop accepting vendors and to add signs that will help emergency services locate people in need.

8. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

Poudrier updated the committee on the sponsorships received. He reported that they are ahead of where they were at this time last year. He thanked his office for spearheading the efforts behind receiving a few of the big sponsorships and he asked that if any committee members knew of local businesses wanting to be a sponsor to please reach out to his office.

Poudrier reported that there are still a few brochure ad spots available and asked the committee to reach out and see if they knew anyone who would like to purchase an ad space.

9. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

Poudrier reported on the marketing strategy that Haley Moore wrote. He asked the committee to please like and share the posts on the International Festival social media accounts.

10. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

Thomas reported that they are prepared for the Opening ceremony and that Judge Erwin will preside over the Naturalization Ceremony. She reported that the Opening Ceremony will start at 5:45pm on Friday, September 26, 2025.

11. Entertainment

Morman reported that the volunteer performer schedule has been drafted and that all performers have been contacted about their performance time and location. Veu noted to correct the name of the group performing at 4pm on Sunday to "Samoan American Association of Oklahoma." Morman announced that there will be a volunteer performers meeting on Tuesday, September 16 and that there will be important information shared with performers and stage managers.

12. Volunteers

Thomas reported that she is working on reaching out to volunteer groups and asked that Lawton Public Schools be contacted about the volunteer opportunities.

13. Decorations

Thomas invited the committee to come to the festival decorating day on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 5:30pm.

14. Beer Booth

Smith reported that he has 14 volunteers from the Knights of Columbus for all the shifts and he is expecting more to sign up at their next meeting. He reported on a new way to streamline the age verification process so that people will be able to order quicker and not wait in line so long. Poudrier asked about the price of the alcoholic slushies. There was discussion on what price they were sold for at last year's festival.

Poudrier reported that Fisher 59 would provide the cups and pitchers for the beer booth, but he will need to ask them if there are able to provide the 21+ wristbands as well.

15. Drink Booths

Rogers reminded the committee that the Diet Pepsi did not sell well at the 2024 International Festival, but she received a lot of requests for Coke Zero.

Thomas reported that Liberty National Bank will be donating cases of water for the volunteers.

16. Information Booth

Thomas reported that she does not want to purchase more items to sell at the Information booth because in the past several years, not a lot of items have been sold.

Staff Reports:

17. A&H Administrator: City of Lawton Collaboration and Assistance

Poudrier reported that his office is happy to assist and that if the committee members have any requests to please reach out to his office. He also told the committee members that if they have any complaints or issues with any of the staff, whether it's one of his employees or another city staff member, to please bring it to his attention when it does happen so that the issues can be addressed in a timely manner.

Business Items:

18. Confirm pricing for T-Shirts, Climbing Tower, Escape Rooms, Drinks, and Beer Booth and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced this item. He reported that the prices are based off what was charged in previous years and on comparisons with other festivals in the area. There was discussion on whether to charge one price for the shirts or to keep the multiple prices for the different sizes, discussion on the domestic and imported beer prices, and discussion on how to track sales based off the reports received from the Square Point of Sales systems.

Motion by Smith to approve the pricing for no less than what was charged in previous years, giving the executive committee and arts and humanities staff the power to adjust the prices as needed. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

19. Approve volunteer performers and schedule and take action as necessary.

Motion by Brown to approve volunteer performers and schedule with the update of the name of the "Samoan American Association of Oklahoma." Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements:

Thomas thanked the committee for their support of the International Festival and she thanked the City of Lawton Arts and Humanities staff for their support as well. She also reminded the committee that if they see something, to say something. She reminded that there will be a police presence and a hired security company to help mitigate potential threats to the safety of the festival patrons.

Adjournment: 5:38pm