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McMahon Memorial Auditorium : Arts and Humanities Committee

Minutes
Monthly Meeting
Arts and Humanities Committee
a committee of the
McMahon Auditorium Authority
January 7, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.
Carnegie Library Town Hall

Teresa Abram
 (Chair)

Alison Offield
 (Vice Chair)

Melissa Beck
 Leah Chaffins
 Dr. Natalie McCabe
 Indie Michaels
 Darius Monroe
 Dr. Charles Owens
 Reginald Ramey
 Max Sasseen

Jason Poudrier
 Arts & Humanities
 Administrator

Andrea Morman
 Deputy Arts &
 Humanities
 Administrator

Michell Rosario
 Arts & Humanities
 Community Events &
 Outreach Coordinator

Haley Moore
 Arts & Humanities
 Digital Media &
 Records Specialist

Reagan Phillips
 Arts & Humanities
 Administrative
 Assistant

Jimmy Carswell
 Arts & Humanities
 Technical Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL – 4:01 pm

PRESENT: Offield, Chaffins, Monroe, Owens
 ABSENT: Abram, Beck, McCabe, Micheals, Ramey, Sasseen
 STAFF: Poudrier, Rosario, Phillips

VERIFY POSTING OF MEETING

Action: Verification of posting time, place, and date

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered to be routine by the Arts and Humanities 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.

1. Consider approving minutes from October 1, 2025 and November 5, 2025.
2. Consider approving financial report for November and December 2025.

Motion by Chaffins to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2025 and November 5, 2025 meetings and to approve the financials from November 2025 and December 2025. Second by Monroe.

All in favor. Motion carried.

CHAIR’S REPORT

3. General announcements and updates
 Poudrier reported that after March 5, 2026, he would have a report on the McMahon Memorial Auditorium reopening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Receive reports and take action as necessary.

4. Sub Committees

Offield announced that she and Abram met and discussed the nominations for the 2025 Arts and Humanities awards and the 2025 Art purchase competition. They decided on the following winners:

- Art Purchase competition – Santos Rubio
- Citizen in the Arts – Jo Ann Knecht
- Educator in the Arts – Dr. Cornel Pewewardy
- Business in the Arts – Vaska Theatre

Phillips confirmed that the State of the Arts luncheon will take place on Friday, February 13, at the Hilton.

Poudrier reported that the International Festival Committee is looking at booking comedian Henry Cho to perform as a fundraiser for the 2026 festival.

Phillips reported that the Arts and Humanities division received a subgranting submission that morning and she included it in the agenda packet. Poudrier suggested the committee review the submission and take action at the following meeting.

Chaffins reported that the Third Saturday open mic with John Morris is coming up on January 17 at 6:30pm at the Carnegie Library Town Hall. She reported that the Open Mic at Cameron University on February 6, at 7:00pm will have a guest speaker who will discuss the history of spoken word in Oklahoma.

BUSINESS ITEMS

5. Discuss Arts and Humanities Award Winners and State of the Arts Luncheon and take action as necessary.

Poudrier recommended that the Arts and Humanities committee pay for a certain amount of guests along with the awards winners. Phillips reported on the prices she received after talking to the Lawton Fort Sill chamber of commerce.

Motion by Owens to approve the purchase of the winners tickets and an additional seat for each winner to bring a guest for the State of the Arts Luncheon on Friday, February 13, 2026. Second by Chaffins.

All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discuss support of art classes at Carnegie Library Town Hall and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced this item. He added that there is an additional gourd workshop that may be added. He reported that the teacher of the gourd workshop will handle all the sign-ups and payments, the Arts and Humanities division are just helping with the location and marketing.

7. Discuss any outstanding sub-granting applications and take action as necessary.

There were no outstanding subgrant applications, only the one that was received that morning.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Owens asked about the possibility of holding a pop-up art show at the Carnegie Library Town Hall to celebrate Black History Month. Discussion ensued about how to facilitate the pop-up art show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poudrier announced that in January and February 2026, he will be working with the Museum of the Great Plains to prepare for renovations.

Offield announced that auditions for the “Black Dresses in the White House” play will take place at Carnegie Library Town Hall on Friday, January 16.

ADJOURNMENT – 4:41 pm