



International Festival 2026

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



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

February 3, 2026 – 5:00PM

Carnegie Library Town Hall

Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

Nancy Alandzes
Rosalind Asetamy
Hannah Bacani
Alicia Brierton
Reggie Brown
Fano Canton
Racquel Colburn
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
Alisha Saufoi
Page Smith
Betty Veu
Iafeta Veu
Daisy Wyatt

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: 5:05pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Asetamy, Bacani, Brierton, Brown, Colburn, Morita, Nigh, Reynolds, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Wyatt

ABSENT: Alandzes, Canton, De Shade, Fullerton, Hastings, McManus, Nededog, Rogers, Sasseen, Saufoi, Smith, Betty Veu, Iafeta Veu

STAFF: Poudrier, Morman, Phillips

Verify posting 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 January 6, 2026.
4. Approval of financials from January 2026.

Motion by Brierton to approve the January 6, 2026 meeting minutes and to accept the financial report from January 2026. Second by Asetamy.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Report

5. Thomas updated the committee on the booking status of Henry Cho for this year's International Festival Fundraiser. She stated that they are hoping to have him come in mid-November. Brown asked if it was possible to team up with a local comedy club for free/low-cost talent for the fundraiser. There was discussion on whether the local talent could be a part of the fundraiser or if we could reach out and have them as volunteer performers.
6. Thomas announced that they are looking at holding another bowling tournament to raise funds for this year's International Festival. She reported that they had fun last year and would like to increase the amount of participants for this year.

Vice Chair's Report:

7. Lazarte announced that she and a few others will be hosting a bridal shower for Hannah Bacani on Friday, February 20, 2026. She invited the entire committee to the shower.

Committee Reports

8. Vendors

Phillips reported that she updated the vendor packet with the new dates, the electrical request verbiage as approved by City of Lawton Building Maintenance personnel, and the food vendor requirements from the Lawton Fire Marshalls. She reported that the fees were not increased, nor was the location changed as there was still a chance of having the festival in Elmer Thomas Park.

9. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

No report

10. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

No report

11. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

Morman reported that she is going to reach out to Keali'i to see if she can preside over the Parade of Nations. She also asked if the committee would like for the office to reach out to the Hilton again for the Naturalization Ceremony reception as the Museum of the Great Plains will be under construction. Thomas asked if Rosario could follow up with Hilton for the reception and Judge Irwin and the Department of Immigration for the Naturalization ceremony.

12. Entertainment

Morman reported on the work done by the Performer Selection Sub-Committee. She reported that the sub-committee has looked into several different possible headliners, one of which being Mariachi Las Altenas who performed as a headliner at the 2023 and 2024 International Festivals. Morman reported that the mariachi group asked to raise their fees by \$500, making their total fees \$9500, as they have added a few musicians to their group. Another group that the sub-committee looked into was Intuitive African Dance Group and several others. Discussion ensued about how many stages there would be as the festival site layout will need to be changed due to the park construction.

12. Volunteers

No report.

13. Decorations

Thomas confirmed that the entire committee is requested to help in decorating the festival site.

14. Beer Booth

Thomas and Brown confirmed that the Knights of Columbus will again be running the beer booth.

15. Drink Booths - No report.

16. Information Booth - No report.

Staff Reports:

17. A&H Administrator: City of Lawton Collaboration and Assistance - No report.

Business Items:

18. Discuss and consider location of 2026 Festival and take action as necessary.

Thomas reported that she and Poudrier met with the Community Enrichment Director, Larry Parks, and they found that a large part of Elmer Thomas Park that the International Festival has occupied will still be available. They reported that the festival site layout will need to be adjusted for the lost space, but holding the festival in Elmer Thomas Park is still a possibility. Discussion ensued about when the construction in Elmer Thomas Park is scheduled to start, how many stages could be accommodated, and how the limited space would affect vendors.

Motion by Brierton to accept the recommendation of the location subcommittee to hold the 2026 International Festival in Elmer Thomas Park. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor. Motion carried.

19. Discuss poster competition and guidelines and take action as necessary.

Thomas introduced this item. She asked when this poster competition guidelines should be sent to the schools. Morman said we could send it out as soon as the committee would like. There was discussion on who all could send in a submission for the poster competition, as in if the competition was just for the schools or the public, how the poster competition guidelines get dispersed to the community, and if the artists need to be from Lawton and the surrounding areas, or if the artist could be from out of state, or even out of country.

The International Festival Committee decided to read through the poster guidelines and decide at the March 4, 2026, meeting to update the guidelines so that submissions must come from artists in Comanche County and the surrounding areas.

20. Discuss and consider Performers for IF 2026 and take action as necessary.

Motion by Bacani to book Mariachi Las Alenas to be a headliner on Saturday, September 26, for the 2026 International Festival for a fee of \$9,500. Second by Nigh.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment: 6:13pm