



# International Festival 2026

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



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

April 7, 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

Darwin McHenry  
Arts and Humanities  
Maintenance Tech

## Call Meeting to Order: 5:08pm

### 1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Asetamy, Bacani, Brown, Canton, De Shade, Fullerton, Morita, Reynolds, Rogers, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero

ABSENT: Alandzes, Brierton, Colburn, Hastings, McManus, Nededog, Nigh, Sasseen, Saufoi, Smith, Betty Veu, Iafeta Veu, and Wyatt

STAFF: Morman, Phillips

GUESTS: Anika Safi and Ellen Sutton

## 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 March 3, 2026.

### 4. Approval of financials from March 2026.

Motion by Jerson Romero to approve the March 3, 2026 meeting minutes and the March financial report. Second by Myrna Romero. All in favor, motion carried.

## Guest Presentation

Safi and Sutton gave a presentation on Health and Mission International and a few of the eight dignitaries from Kenya they want to bring to the United States. They reported that these dignitaries want to perform and sell handmade jewelry as IF vendors. They asked the International Festival Committee to write a letter inviting these dignitaries to the festival in order to help with their travelling visa. Thomas reported that because it is not on this agenda, the committee cannot vote on this as an item, but they will put it on the next agenda.

## Chair Report

### 5. Announcements – none

6. Thomas announced that due to unrelated circumstances, Henry Cho is not available to be booked at the auditorium, but she has been thinking of another Idea to raise funds and asked the committee what they thought about hosting a “Lawton has Talent” show in October 2026. Thomas assured the committee that the show will take place at the McMahon Memorial Auditorium. Discussion ensued about what personnel are needed to run a show like this, what concession could be sold, if they should bring in

a food truck, how to receive auditions, and possibly getting celebrity judges from the local area. A Talent Show committee was created with Fullerton and Lazarte as co-chairs, with Fullerton taking the lead. Thomas reported that at the next meeting a lot of the details can be decided and Fullerton requested the help of all the committee members in putting on this production. Fullerton said that she would type up needs and ideas and send it to Phillips so that she can have it prepared for the next meeting.

7. Thomas reported that she is trying to get businesses to sponsor a few teams and she requested that the committee please spread the word and recruit teams to participate.

#### **Vice Chair's Report:**

8. No report.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **9. Vendors**

Phillips reported that she has received 13 vendor applications so far and asked the committee to spread the word.

##### **10. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads**

Thomas and Morman reported on the sponsorship levels and the brochure ads and noted that the information was included in their packets.

##### **11. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media**

Morman reported on the marketing and social media. She reported that Moore has been posting on the International Festival Facebook page and urged the committee members to follow the page and interact with the content.

##### **12. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony**

Morman confirmed that Kealii is prepared to run the Parade of Nations again this year. There was discussion about who to reach out to for Fort Sill Representatives for the Opening Ceremony.

##### **13. Entertainment**

Thomas confirmed that the North Stage will be a smaller stage for this year's festival.

De Shade reported on the activities schedule and map he made for the children's/interactive area. Fullerton asked about the rock climbing wall, Morman reported that there is a fee for the climbing wall, and that she can reach out for a quote from the vendor.

Morman reported that there is no update for the performer selection committee and that they will need to meet again. They scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 5:15pm at the Wesley Foundation by Cameron University.

##### **12. Volunteers**

No update

##### **13. Decorations**

Thomas requested the help of all the committee members to decorate the festival site.

##### **14. Beer Booth**

No update

**15. Drink Booths**

No update

**16. Information Booth**

No update

**Staff Reports:**

**17. Poster Competition Updates**

Phillips reported that she sent out the Poster Competition guidelines to all Lawton Public Schools, Elgin Public Schools, Trinity Christian Academy, and Bishop Public Schools. She also sent the guidelines to post in the CoL community centers. She reported that the announcement is on the auditorium marquee and LPS marquees and has been posted on multiple social media accounts. Phillips reported that she has received interest from multiple teachers. Committee members asked her to also send the information to Cache Public Schools, Tipton Public Schools, Walters Public Schools, and Geronimo Public Schools.

**18. A&H Director: City of Lawton Collaboration and Assistance**

Morman reported that the Arts and Humanities staff is available to assist the committee any way possible.

**19. Updates on Festival Layout**

No update

**Business Items:**

**20. Review and consider approving IF 2026 Volunteer Performer Application.**

Thomas introduced this item. Morman explained that a few questions were reworded for logistics reasons, but that it is essentially the same applications as from the past few years.

Motion by Asetamy to approve the Volunteer Performer Application. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business: none**

**New Business: none**

**Announcements:**

Thomas announced that Bacani is getting married on Monday, April 20, 2026. She also announced that the Friends of the Museum of the Great Plains is hosting an event to celebrate America 250 on Saturday, April 25, 2026. The event is called Soldier of the American Revolution.

Jerson Romero announced that Myrna Romero retired on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Brown announced that the Pregnancy Resource Center of Southwest Oklahoma will be holding its annual Walk for Life Saturday, June 6, at the Cameron University Bentley Gardens.

Fullerton announced that the Filipino American Association of Lawton Forst Sill has a brand new board of officers and they will be hosting their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on Saturday June 6, 2026.

**Adjournment: 6:11pm**