



International Festival 2026

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



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

July 7, 2026 – 5:00PM

Carnegie Library Town Hall

Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

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

Jason Poudrier
Arts & Humanities
Director

Andrea Morman
Arts & Humanities
Deputy Administrator

Haley Moore
Arts & Humanities
Digital Media Specialist

Reagan Phillips
Arts & Humanities
Administrative Assistant

Darwin McHenry
Arts and Humanities
Maintenance Tech

Call Meeting to Order: 5:01pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Morita, Rayos, Reynolds, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Betty Veu, and Iafeta Veu

ABSENT: Alandzes, Asetamy, Brierton, Brown, Canton, De Shade, Fullerton, Garner, Hasting, McManus, Nededog, Nigh, Rogers, Sasseen, Saufoi, Smith

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 June 2, 2026.

4. Approval of financials from June 2026.

Poudrier and Morman discovered a typo on the June 2026 financials and asked that the committee disregard the financial report as it is not accurate.

Motion by Jerson Romero to disregard the June Financial report and approve the June 2, 2026 minutes. Second by Myrna Romero.

Lazarte, Morita, Rayos, Reynolds, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Betty Veu, Iafeta Veu voted yes. Motion carried.

Chair Report

5. Thomas reported on the progress with making the 2026 festival shirts and passed around two drafts and asked the committee if they preferred the dark yellow or the light yellow shirt. The committee decided that they liked the dark yellow shirts better. They also discussed that if they order the shirts early, they could possibly sell them prior to the festival like how Arts for All sells their shirts beforehand.

Thomas reported that she would like to have a focus on “Kids First” at this years festival and reported that her churches youth group are willing to run carnival games during the festival weekend. There was discussion on whether to charge to play the games and that the winners could pick prizes from the Information booth. She also brought up the idea of having a dunk tank and using that as a fundraiser. She reported that they can vote at the August meeting on whether to charge for the carnival games or not.

6. Thomas reported that the Bowling Tournament fundraiser is progressing nicely and that she has received several prize donations and raffle items. She reported that flyers have been set up all over to promote the tournament and that she is expecting people to sign up the day of the tournament. Thomas also asked that if the committee could spread the word and ask their friends if they would like to sign up.

Vice Chair's Report:

7. No report.

Committee Reports

8. Vendors

Phillips reported on the received vendor applications. She reported that they have received a total of 50 vendors, that include 6 display vendors, 25 food vendors, and 19 sales vendors. There was discussion about still accepting vendors, but warning them that they may not appear on the map.

9. Lawton Has Talent

Thomas reported on the overview of the Lawton Has Talent competition.

10. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

Poudrier reported that Moore in the Arts and Humanities office has sent media sponsor packets to their media partners. He also reported that they have received a brochure ad form from Nissan of Lawton and he reported that he is expecting more sponsorships to come through.

Thomas asked when the deadline for brochure ads sales and Poudrier responded that due to the City of Lawton outsourcing all printing projects to other print shops, he is unsure. He said that the Cameron Print Shop was recommended, but he doesn't fully know their capabilities and will have to work with them on the timelines.

11. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

Poudrier reported that print marketing has been budgeted and he is looking into purchasing ads on radio, television, and print media.

12. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

Morman reported that Keali'I has been contacted for the Parade of Nations. Thomas reported that she would follow up with Garner for the Cameron University Director of International Students. Thomas reported that Molly Buckley and Kathy Sauders will be recognized for their years of service to the International Festival Committee at the Opening Ceremony.

13. Entertainment

Morman reported that the Arts and Humanities office has been receiving volunteer performer applications and she is expecting a few more to be turned in. Morman also reported that due to the delay in construction in Elmer Thomas Park, the festival can have both the North and South stage with Headliners. There was discussion about due to the Filipino Association of Lawton Fort Sill having several performers who are also student athletes, they are unable to perform as headliners on Friday, September 25. The committee discussed possible replacement headliners for the Friday night headliners.

12. Volunteers

Thomas reported that she is reaching out to volunteers.

13. Decorations

Thomas asked the committee to be available the Tuesday before the festival to help decorate the festival site.

14. Beer Booth

Poudrier reported that a new law has gone into effect that will affect organizations that sell alcohol. Her reported that the law shouldn't affect the International Festival seeing as the Oklahoma Tax Commission and ABLE licensing view the festival as a "special event" but he is looking into it further. Poudrier went on to ask if the Knights of Columbus could look at their members and see if any of them have the correct training for serving alcohol because it wouldn't hurt to have someone on site trained.

15. Drink Booths

No report.

16. Information Booth

No report.

Staff Reports:

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

Poudrier reported that he and his staff are available to help with the needs of the committee.

18. Volunteer Performer application update

See report above. Morman added that the deadline for the volunteer performer applications is July 24.

Business Items:

19. Review draft "Lawton Has Talent" performer application and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced this item. There was discussion on whether there should be an entrance fee or not.

Motion by Rayos to approve the performer application with the addition of adding an entrance fee of \$50 for a single performer act and \$100 for a multiple performer act. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor, motion carried.

20. Review Headliner performer contracts and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced this item. He clarified that this item is to approve the contracting of Joe Coover, family friendly magician, and exotic animals. There as discussion on if these performers will bring in a crowd.

Motion by Jerson Romero to approve the 2026 International Festival headliners Joe Coover and exotic animals. Second by Betty Veu.

All in favor, motion carried.

21. Review proposed budget for 2026 International Festival and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced this item. He reviewed the budget for the committee and compared the proposed budget to the actual expenses and incomes from the 2025 International Festival budget.

He went on to explain the different grants that his office interns have been working on this summer.

Motion by Jerson Romero to approve the proposed budget. Second by Morita.

All in favor, motion carried.

22. Review received IF26 vendor applications and permit A&H staff to accept or deny late applications and take action as necessary.

Thomas introduced this item. She asked the committee if they should extend the deadline.

Motion by Betty Veu to extend the deadline to the end of July. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor, motion carried.

23. Consider having state and local Samoan organizations trade off annually for the presentation of the Ava ceremony in conjunction with the Opening Ceremony.

Thomas introduced this item. She asked if Betty Veu would like to speak about this item as she is the representative from the Samoan American Association of Oklahoma. Betty went on to explain that her organization, with all due respect to Pastor Fano, is a recognized and established organization that is working with multiple Samoan communities across Oklahoma and it makes sense for the Samoan American Association of Oklahoma to provide and perform the Ava Ceremony as they are representative of multiple communities in Oklahoma and not just one church. She went on to explain that the Samoan American Association of Oklahoma has invited him to be a part of the organization, but he has declined the invite.

Motion by Jerson Romero to approve the Samoan American Association of Oklahoma to perform the Ava presentation at the opening ceremony, at their discretion to accept or decline, for this year, with the possibility of revising the decision next year and to recognize the American Samoan Association as the recognized cultural association, which will always have the first opportunity to perform or delegate any Samoan events. Second by Morita.

Lazarte, Morita, Rayos, Reynolds, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Betty Veu, Iafeta Veu voted yes. Motion carried.

24. Discuss marketing signs and take action as necessary.

Thomas introduced this item. She reported that she was thinking about purchasing new signs that would be easier to update yearly. Poudrier added that the yard signs have brought people into the festival and has helped keep the festival on citizen's minds in the weeks leading up to the festival.

Motion by Jerson Romero to purchase more marketing signs. Second by Myrna Romero.

Lazarte, Morita, Rayos, Reynolds, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Betty Veu, Iafeta Veu voted yes. Motion carried.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements: none

Adjournment