



McMahon Memorial Auditorium

801 NW Ferris Ave
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Lawton, OK 73502
580-581-3470
www.swokarts.com



Max Sasseen
Chair

Allan Jolly
Vice-Chair

Teresa Pendergraft
Secretary/Treasurer

Dory Thomas
Jason Poudrier
Paul Ellwanger
Taron Epps
OPEN
OPEN

Jason Poudrier
Arts & Humanities
Director

Andrea Morman
Arts & Humanities
Deputy Administrator

Haley Moore
Arts & Humanities
Digital Media &
Records Specialist

Reagan Phillips
Administrative
Assistant

Darwin McHenry
Arts & Humanities
Maintenance Tech

Minutes
Regular Meeting
McMahon Auditorium Authority
July 9, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.
Carnegie Library Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL – 4:00 pm

PRESENT: Sasseen, Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas

ABSENT:

STAFF: Morman, 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 McMahon Auditorium Authority 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 May 14, 2026.**
- 2. Consider accepting the bank register reports for May and June 2026.**

Motion by Pendergraft to approve the meeting minutes from May 14, 2026 and the May and June 2026 bank register reports. Second by Ellwanger.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

Meeting went as follows: 1, 2, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 15, 16, 18, 7, 12, 3, 10,

CHAIR'S REPORT

3. Auditorium Update

Sasseen reported that although there are workers still coming into the auditorium, the Arts and Humanities staff are now in full control of the building. He reported that Pat Reynolds of Journey production is working to put any misplaced items away and organize the storage areas. Sasseen reported on the status of the HVAC system, the acoustic report, and his discussions with CDBL and Guernsey. He reported that Guernsey and CDBL are wanting to do an additional report and that the executive committee has talked and decided to pay for the report out of the McMahon Foundation Grant account with the promise that it would be reimbursed from the City of Lawton engineering department.

- 4. CLTH Update – no report**
- 5. Armory Update – no report**
- 6. Other announcements - none**

TREASURER'S REPORT

7. CPA's Financial Reports

No report.

8. Audit Update

Pendergraft reported that Turner has reached out to herself and the Arts and Humanities Staff and that everything is progressing nicely. Morman added that she and the Arts and Humanities staff have been working on sending documents to the new auditor.

STAFF REPORTS

9. Review April and May Events Calendar

No report.

10. Hotel/Motel, ARPA Funds Update and Grants Update

Poudrier reported that the Oklahoma Arts Council has directed him to spend their remaining ARPA Grant funds by June on items similar to what the funds were originally allocated.

11. City of Lawton Birthday Celebration, Auditorium Reopening Act

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

12. Receive Report from International Festival Committee and take action as necessary.

Thomas reported that the International Festival Committee has chosen a poster competition winner and that they are working with Stanton's on a shirt design. She also reported on the progress of the Lawton Has Talent Competition. Thomas went on to report that she is working on making the International Festival more child centered this year to coincide with Mayor Bookers Kids First initiative. She also reported that the festival will take place September 25-27 at Elmer Thomas Park.

Motion by Poudrier to ratify the committee votes for the winners of the 2026 International Festival Poster Competition and for Lawton Has Talent. Second by Thomas.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

13. Receive Report from Arts and Humanities Committee and take action as necessary.

No report.

14. Receive Report from Nominating Committee

No report.

BUSINESS ITEMS

15. Discuss nomination and appointments of Fiscal Year 2027 MAA Officers and take action as necessary.

Sasseen introduced this item. He stated that as they are now in Fiscal Year 2027, they need to have a discussion and nominate authority members for the FY2027 executive board. Discussion ensued about term limits and nominations.

Motion by Poudrier to nominate Alan Jolly as the FY2027 Chair, Paul Ellwanger as the FY2027 Vice Chair, and Teresa Pendergraft as the FY2027 Treasurer. Second by Thomas.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

16. Discuss nomination committee results and take action as necessary.

Sasseen introduced this item. He explained that members of the nomination committee have been looking at possible replacements for the vacancy left by Neil West and they have decided on Austin Rabon of Godlove, Mayhall, Dutcher, Rabon, & Watson.

Motion by Ellwanger to recommend to Mayor Booker and the City Council for Austin Rabon be appointed to fill the McMahon Auditorium Authority member vacancy created when Neil West resigned. Second by Epps.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

17. Discuss formation of MAA Advisory Committee and take action as necessary.

Sasseen introduced this item. He stated that with the update to council policy 1-6, this term will be the last term for a few authority members and that these members are still wanting to be a part of the authority and help maintain the McMahon Memorial Auditorium. Discussion ensued about how the member could continue to be a part of the authority and advise new authority members using their years of knowledge and expertise about the auditorium.

Motion by Epps to establish an advisory board and to update the by-laws as necessary. Second by Ellwanger.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

18. Discuss auditorium renovations and take action as necessary.

Sasseen introduced this item. He reported that during the renovations, the cyclorama was thought to be stored in a way that it would not become dirty or damaged, but now that the renovation is complete, the Arts and Humanities division has discovered that the cyclorama has dirt stains. Staff has tried to find ways to clean it without voiding the fire resistance in the fabric, but have been unsuccessful. Discussion ensued when the next show would be that would need to use the cyclorama and ways they could have stored the cyclorama to protect it from dirt and damage.

Motion by Poudrier to spend up to \$7,000 out of the show account to purchase a new cyclorama with the same specifications as the last cyclorama. Second by Pendergraft.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

Sasseen went on to report that during the renovation, they had an opportunity to run new wires for new security camera locations. He explained that he was unsure if the authority should install new cameras or put caps on the hanging wires until they want to install new cameras. Discussion ensued about the possible liabilities that could arise should they decide to not install cameras and how soon the cameras would need to be installed.

Motion by Epps to install the cameras to restore what were taken out prior to the construction and to see if funds from the Arts and Humanities City of Lawton funds could pay for part of the invoice. Second by Pendergraft.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

19. Discuss use of Hotel Motel Funds to support production costs of Louise McMahon Tribute performance, cost associated with Longhorn Cattle Drive and Chuckwagon, and other Kid's First Initiative Items as part of City of Lawton's Birthday Celebration and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced this item. He informed the authority of the significance of the City of Lawton's 125th birthday and the inclusion of the mini birthday parties at the different rec centers across Lawton and how they align with the Mayor's Kids First initiative. Poudrier explained that with the reopening of the McMahon Memorial Auditorium and the 125th birthday celebration on Saturday, August 8, he is working with several city entities in planning a chuck wagon breakfast and longhorn cattle drive. He asked the authority their thoughts on monetarily supporting the celebration out of the 2027 Hotel/Motel allocation. Discussion ensued on how the 2027 Hotel Motel funds will be received by the Arts and Humanities division.

Motion by Poudrier to spend up to \$3,500 from 2027 Hotel/Motel allocation in support of the City of Lawton Birthday Celebration and McMahon Memorial Auditorium ribbon cutting. Second by Pendergraft.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

20. Discuss amending source funds of Princess Prom Party and allocating \$750 of show account funds instead of Hotel Motel Funds as reimbursement to Curiosity Avenue in support of the costs of the Princesses for the Princess Prom Party Freedom Festival Fundraiser.

Sasseen introduced this item. He stated that this item was originally voted on for the funds to come out of the 2026 Hotel Motel allocation. Poudrier expounded that after the vote and before the event, the city finance department stopped approving reimbursements for the 2026 Hotel Motel allocations.

Motion by Jolly to amend the source funds of Princess Prom Party and allocating \$750 of show account funds instead of Hotel Motel Funds as reimbursement to Curiosity Avenue in support of the costs of the Princesses for the Princess Prom Party Freedom Festival Fundraiser . Second by Ellwanger.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, and Thomas voted yes, Poudrier abstained, motion carried.

21. Discuss amending source funds and amount for subgrant to Krebs Creates for adaptive art supplies and allocating up to \$693 out of show account funds instead of Hotel Motel Funds for reimbursement to Krebs Creates.

Sasseen introduced this item. He stated that this item was originally voted on for the funds to come out of the 2026 Hotel Motel allocation. Poudrier expounded that after the vote and before the event, the city finance department stopped approving reimbursements for the 2026 Hotel Motel allocations.

Motion by Jolly to amend the source funds and amount for subgrant to Krebs Creates for adaptive art supplies and allocating up to \$693 out of show account funds instead of Hotel Motel Funds for reimbursement to Krebs Creates . Second by Thomas.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Epps, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

22. Discuss using Hotel Motel Funds for Fiscal Year 2027 to support bringing The Wall That Heals Mobile Vietnam War Memorial Exhibit to Lawton.

Poudrier introduced this item. He stated that there is no need to vote on this item, as this is just an introduction. Poudrier went on to explain what the mobile exhibit would entail.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS - none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pendergraft announced that Next Generation Performing Arts Camp will take place July 19-25 and they will performing Oklahoma on Saturday, July 25 with free admission.

Poudrier reported that the International Festival Bowling tournament will take place on Saturday, July 18. He also announced that Lawton Community Theatre will have free performances of their Winnie the Pooh camp Saturday, July 11.

Jolly announced that the Leslie Powell Gallery will have a new exhibit opening on Friday, July 10.

Epps announced that he is running for the Ward 2 City Council chair and that elections are coming up on Tuesday, August 25, and encouraged the board to get out and vote, even if they do not vote for him.

ADJOURNEMENT – The meeting adjourned at 5:25PM.