



McMahon Memorial Auditorium

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Minutes
Regular Meeting
McMahon Auditorium Authority
November 13, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.
Carnegie Library Town Hall

Max Sasseen
Chair

Allan Jolly
Vice-Chair

Teresa Pendergraft
Secretary/Treasurer

Dory Thomas
Jason Poudrier
Julia Sibilla
Paul Ellwanger
Taron Epps
OPEN

Jason Poudrier
Arts & Humanities
Director

Andrea Morman
Deputy Arts &
Humanities
Administrator

Michell Rosario
Arts & Humanities
Community Events &
Outreach Coordinator

Haley Moore
Arts & Humanities
Digital Media &
Records Specialist

Reagan Phillips
Administrative
Assistant

Jimmy Carswell
Art's & Humanities
Technical Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL – 4:03pm

PRESENT: Sasseen, Jolly, Pendergraft, Thomas, Poudrier

ABSENT: Ellwanger, Epps, Sibilla

STAFF: 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 of October 9, 2025 regular meeting.**
- 2. Consider accepting the bank register reports for October 2025.**

Motion by Poudrier to accept the minutes for the October 9, 2025 Meeting and the bank register reports from October 2025. Second by Thomas.

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

3. Auditorium Update

Sasseen reported that the construction at McMahon Memorial Auditorium is coming along. Jolly reported that the stage should be clear by the end of December. Poudrier reported that the elevator is in the shaft. Phillips reported that Ford Roofing has started replacing the roof at the auditorium.

4. Other announcements

Sasseen reported on the possibility of purchasing a piano for the lobby of the McMahon Auditorium and the authority discussed the state of the current piano in the Carnegie Library Town Hall.

Jolly recommended that the authority purchase a gently used piano to be put in the lobby of the McMahon Memorial Auditorium out of the programming support funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

5. CPA's Financial Reports

Pendergraft reported on the financials and compared them to November of 2024.

Motion by Pendergraft to allow the executive committee the power to approve or not approve the FY2025 Audit when the final report becomes available. Second by Thomas.

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

STAFF REPORTS

6. Review Events Calendar, and Audit Update

Phillips reported on the events that the Arts and Humanities Division is producing or supporting in November and December 2025.

7. Hotel/Motel, ARPA, and CIP Funds Update and Grants Update

Poudrier updated the Authority on status of the Hotel/Motel and ARPA reimbursements that have been sent through.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

No report.

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

Poudrier reported that the Arts and Humanities Division received a grant submission from Bigger Than Music for the 2025 Praise Party in the Park. Discussion ensued about what the Praise Party in the Park entailed, who Bigger Than Music is, how they have received grant funds in the past, and the possibility of filtering the level of talent that the grant funds help to support.

Motion by Jolly to approve the grant submission and award Bigger Than Music \$2,000. Second by Poudrier.

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

Poudrier reported that the Arts and Humanities Committee has extended the deadline for submissions for the Arts and Humanities Awards and the Art Purchase Competition. He reported that the Arts and Humanities committee would not be meeting in December, like how the Authority will not be meeting in December and that the winners of the Awards and Competition are usually ratified by the Authority.

Motion by Jolly to Grant the Co-Chairs of the Arts and Humanities Committee the power to select the Winners of the Arts and Humanities Awards and Art Purchase Competition and that the Authority will not need to ratify their decision. Second by Pendergraft.

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

10. Consider approval of a budget of up to \$2,200 to host a Christmas Holiday themed Arts and Humanities event that is Free for up to 50 at-risk youth to be administered, operated, and supported by the City of Lawton Arts and Humanities Staff and volunteers and take action as necessary.

Sasseen and Poudrier introduced this item. They reported that Andrea Morman created this program and that it aligns with the Authority's mission. Sasseen was unsure if \$2,200 would be enough funds. Poudrier reported that the location for this event will be Curiosity Avenue.

Motion by Jolly to approve a budget of up to \$3,000 to host a Christmas Holiday themed Arts and Humanities event that is Free for up to 50 at-risk youth to be administered, operated, and supported by the City of Lawton Arts and Humanities Staff and volunteers. Second by Thomas.

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

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS - none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thomas Announced that the NEA Big Read 2025 is doing a blackout bingo event that will culminate on December 5th with the Mary Roach Author Discussion.

Phillips announced that Lawton Ballet Theatre will be hosting a Bingo fundraiser on November 15th to support their scholarships students. She also announced that LBT's Nutcracker Ballet is coming up the third week of December at Lawton High School.

Jolly announced that Lawton Community Theatre's Production of Noises Off opens on November 14, 2025.

Poudrier announced that the Arts and Humanities division has hired a new Technical Coordinator for the McMahon Memorial Auditorium, Jimmy Carswell. Poudrier announced that Carswell will be sent to assist the different productions and entities that are borrowing equipment from the auditorium. Poudrier also announced that his new business, Curiosity Avenue, will have it's red ribbon cutting on Friday, November 14, at 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT – 4:58pm