



International Festival 2025

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



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

October 2, 2025 – 4:30PM

Carnegie Library Town Hall

Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

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

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: 4:42pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Asetamy, Bacani, Brown, Nigh, Rogers, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Rudd, Smith, Betty Veu, lafeta Veu

ABSENT: Alandzes, Brierton, Canton, De Shade, Fullerton, Hastings, McManus, Morita, Nededog, Reynolds, Sasseen, Sauder, Saufoi

STAFF: 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 September 2, 2025.

4. Approval of financials from September 2025.

Morman reported that the financial report isn't truly indicative of how successful the festival was seeing as there are still several invoices to be paid and funds to receive. She reported that the true balance wouldn't show until the end of October or November.

Motion by Betty Veu to approve the September 2, 2025 meeting minutes and to accept the financial report from September 2025. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Report

5. Thomas reported that this year seemed to be very successful. She didn't hear many complaints and there weren't any major incidents reported besides the incident that occurred on Sunday around 4:45pm. Phillips briefed that committee on the incident as she was one of the people who called 911. She reported that the incident centered on a woman who collapsed. She stated that the woman had surgery recently and her leg gave out. Phillips stated that an ambulance was called and she stayed close by and monitored the situation until the woman was on the stretcher in the ambulance. Phillips gave praise to the Lawton Fire Department's emergency response team stating that they arrived quickly and were very calming and helpful.

Vice Chair's Report:

6. Lazarte reported that she had one patron complain about the quality of food for one of the vendors and she would like a refund or have the committee require that vendors give refunds, but the patron was unable to give Lazarte the name of the vendor.

Lazarte also reported that there were complaints about parking for the Opening Ceremony. Phillips replied that she was there helping to direct traffic and that they needed at least one additional person at the South stage parking to help patrons not double park and trap cars.

Committee Reports – After action review

7. Vendors

Phillips reported that the only complaint she really got from vendors was about the water main break that occurred in another part of the park. Due to this break, a few vendors had low or no water.

8. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

Morman reported on the sponsorships and grants received and listed in the brochure and expressed her gratitude for their sponsorship. She also thanked the lunch donors for their service.

9. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

Thomas reported that the marketing and publicity did well. She reported that the stickers used to update the yard signs did well.

10. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

There was discussion on the length of the Parade of Nations and the opening ceremony. It went much smoother this year and was within the timeframe given.

11. Entertainment

The south stage only had a complaint about the heat with the sun and air ventilation in the tent and the lighting truss that people kept tripping over. Lazarte suggested that, if they can, everyone should try to catch the opening ceremony and the Naturalization ceremony.

The North stage had a complaint about the Filipino flag being upside down again. The performers on the north stage were very good this year as well.

There was discussion on the making of the stage schedules and whether or not the schedules should have gaps so that while one stage has a performance going, the other can be setting up for their next performance. This would give patrons the opportunity to catch every performance. Discussion ensued about possibly creating a performers committee to assist with performer selection and scheduling.

12. Volunteers

Thomas reported that the volunteers that helped with set up, decorations, and tear down were amazing. There was discussion on the efficacy of the volunteers with surveys and the volunteers selling the water out of the rolling bins.

13. Decorations

Thomas thanked the committee for coming out and helping to decorate the festival site.

14. Beer Booth

Smith reported that the beer booth went very smoothly this year. He reported that Brown had created a "How to" list that came in very handy.

15. Drink Booths

Rudd and Rogers reported that the drinks booth did ok this year. There was discussion on whether the Gatorades were being sold at too high a price for their size.

16. Information Booth

Thomas reported that the shirts did well on sales.

Phillips reported on the success of the climbing wall and the amount of signups she had for the trailer escape rooms. There was discussion about keeping the climbing wall later so that the wall was able to be lit up and for possibly including a carnival in future festivals.

Staff Reports:

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

Morman reported that the Arts and Humanities division will help in any way they can for next year's festival. Thomas thanked the employees of the Arts and Humanities Division for their hard work in assisting with the 2025 International festival.

Business Items:

18. Review annual meeting notice for calendar year 2026 and take action as necessary.

Motion by Smith to approve the 2026 annual meeting notice with the change that all meeting will take place at 5:00pm. Second by Rudd.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

19. Discuss 2026 Fundraiser theme and date.

Thomas announced that they are planning on doing another fundraising gala and asked the committee to think of possible themes.

20. Consider not meeting in November and December 2025 and take action as necessary.

Motion by Smith to not meet in November 2025 and December 2025. Second by Myrna Romero.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements:

Thomas announced that the 2026 Comanche Nation Fair will be not be taking place on the same weekend as the 2026 International Festival so there will not be any competition from them on that weekend. She also announced that due to the scheduled renovation of Elmer Thomas Park, the committee may need to choose a new location for the 2026 International Festival.

Adjournment: 6:30pm