



International Festival 2025

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



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

May 13, 2025—4:30PM

Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce

Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

Nancy Alandzes
Rosalind Asetamy
Alicia Brierton
Reggie Brown
Molly Buckley
Fano Canton
Evelynn Fullerton
Sonia Hastings
Angel Howell
Mike Howell
Mylene McManus
Winnie Morita
Ben Nededog
Pat Reynolds
Kathy Rogers
Jerson Romero
Max Sasseen
Kathy Sauders
Page Smith

Jason Poudrier
Arts & Humanities
Administrator

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

Nicholas Sasseen
Arts & Humanities
Technical Coordinator

Call Meeting to Order: 4:36pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Alandzes*, Asetamy, Brierton, Buckley, Morita, Reynolds, Rogers, Myrna Romero

ABSENT: Brown, Canton, Fullerton, Hastings, Angel Howell, Mike Howell, McManus, Nededog, Jerson Romero, Sasseen, Sauders, Smith

GUEST: Sann Nigh

STAFF: Poudrier, Morman, Phillips

Verify positing 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 April 1, 2025.

4. Approval of financials from April 2025.

Motion by Asetamy to approve the meeting minutes from April 1, 2025 and the financial report from April 2025. Second by Brierton.

Lazarte, Asetamy, Brierton, Buckley, Morita, Reynolds, Rogers, Romero voted yes. Motion Carried

Chair Report

5. Thomas introduced Sann Nigh as a possible new committee member.

Thomas and Lazarte thanked the committee for their help on setting up the International Festival Fiesta. They presented Alicia Brierton with a thank you card and gifts to thank her for her leadership the past few months in setting up the International Festival Fiesta.

Thomas and Lazarte also gave thanks to the Arts and Humanities staff, Shalyn Bowles, and Pat Reynolds for their assistance.

*Alandzes entered

Vice Chair's Report:

6. No report.

Committee Reports:

7. Vendors

Phillips reported that she has received a few vendors already for the 46th annual International Festival. Thomas added that if the committee knew of any possible vendors, reach out to them and see if they are interested.

8. Sponsorships/Brochures

Poudrier reported that his office is accepting sponsorships and brochure ads. He reported that his office is getting ready to push all that information out. He asked the committee that if they knew of anyone who would be interested to have them get in contact with his office. Brierton asked when the deadline for the brochure ads, and Poudrier replied that typically their deadline is 30 days before the festival.

9. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

Poudrier reported that the first wave of marketing for the festival is the media push for sponsors, the second wave will be to announcements of the headliners.

10. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

Mormann reported that she talked to Kealii and that she is still scheduled to MC the Parade of Nations during opening ceremony.

11. Entertainment

Lazarte reported that she is ready to manage the South Stage.

Thomas reported that Jerson will not be able to stage manage the north stage. She asked Nigh if she would be open to managing the north stage. Lazarte assured Nigh that she would help her prepare for coming into the role.

Buckley reported that she has a lot of ideas for the interactive/Children's Area. She asked that we make a large sign announcing that there is no alcohol allowed in the area. She also reported on her idea to decorate the entrance to the children's area. Poudrier added that one of the headliners does harmonica workshops and he may be interested in doing one for the interactive area.

Poudrier reported on the headliners: Edgar Cruz and the Flamenco dancers, The Hydromatics, Moetowne Alex, and possibly the 45th Army National Guard Band but he is needing to follow up with them. Morman reported that she reached out to the Lawton Public Library and received a list of their summer performers and that she would reach out and see if any are available for the International Festival. Poudrier and Phillips reported on the success of the escape room trailers from the 2024 International Festival.

12. Volunteers

Thomas reported that she will have the sorority from last year volunteering again this year. She also reported that John Malone is looking forward to volunteering again and making balloon animals. Poudrier reported that the volunteer performer applications are

now live on the Arts and Humanities website and that there are paper copies that can be found by stopping by the Arts and Humanities division.

13. Decorations

Thomas invited the committee to help with festival decorations starting Tuesday, September 23.

14. Beer Booth

Thomas reported that the Knights of Columbus were still wanting to man the beer booth. She said that they had a great time last year and the year previously. She said that the only issue they had was the foaming that occurred when pouring. Poudrier said that Fisher 59 would work with the Knights to help with the foaming.

15. Drink Booths

Rogers asked if there was a better way to store the drinks while keeping them cool, mainly so that ice isn't being wasted. Thomas and Poudrier said that they would work on solutions to fix the tubs and stop the leaking.

16. Information Booth

Thomas reported that she is not ordering any more sale items for the booth as there is still a lot and they are not selling as planned.

Staff Reports:

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

Poudrier thanked the committee for their help putting on the Fiesta.

Business Items:

18. Review International Festival Fiesta and take action as necessary.

The committee reviewed the International festival Fiesta previously in the meeting.

19. Receive update on International Festival Benches and take action as necessary.

Poudrier reported that the benches have been made and they are currently being stored in the National Guard Armory. Poudrier then went on to explain that Parks and Recreation no longer will install them for free due to the upcoming Elmer Thomas Park construction and renovations. He went on to explain that there may be a way to work with Parks and Recreation in the placement of the benches that will not interfere with the park plans and they may be able to help shoulder the installation costs. The committee discussed possible places for the benches.

20. Review updated International Festival Budget and take action as necessary.

Poudrier reviewed the updated International Festival Budget for the committee.

Motion by Brierton to accept the updated budget. Second by Myrna Romero.

Lazarte, Asetamy, Brierton, Buckley, Morita, Reynolds, Rogers, Romero voted yes. Motion Carried.

21. Review International Festival Poster Submission and take action as necessary.

Thomas reported that there haven't been any submissions. There was discussion on how to move forward should there be no submissions before the submission deadline.

Motion by Brierton to continue accepting poster competition submissions and if there are no submissions, to hire a graphic artist to design this year's festival shirt. Second by Morita.

Lazarte, Asetamy, Brierton, Buckley, Morita, Reynolds, Rogers, Romero voted yes. Motion Carried.

22. Consider themes for next year's International Festival Fundraiser Banquet and take action as necessary.

A few of the suggested themes were German, Korean, Night of the Dragon, Native American, and Indian.

Old Business:

Buckley asked if the vendor that brought the horse rides would be back again.

New Business:

Buckley asked if there was a possibility of bringing in a petting zoo. Poudrier replied that they typically only get the animals with the exotic animal shows seeing as the handlers talk about the animals and they still get to pet them. Buckley then asked what if the festival were to create their own petting zoo with exotic pets from the community. Poudrier replied that there may be some liability issues. Buckley then asked if it was possible to hold an animal adoption event at the festival. There was then discussion about reaching out to the Lawton Animal Welfare Shelter.

Announcements: none

Adjournment: 5:59pm