



International Festival 2023

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



Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting

International Festival Committee

January 2, 2023—5:30PM

McMahon Memorial Auditorium

Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

Nancy Alandzes
Rosalind Asetamy
Alicia Brierton
Molly Buckley
Fano Canton
Taron Epps
Evelynn Fullerton
Sonia Hastings
Angel Howell
Mylene McManus
Ben Nededog
Pat Reynolds
Kathy Rogers
Jerson Romero
Myrna Romero
Renata Rudd
Max Sasseen
Kathy Sauders

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 Williams
Arts & Humanities
Administrative Assistant

Nicholas Sasseen
Arts & Humanities
Technical Coordinator

Call Meeting to Order –5:30pm

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Alandzes*, Asetamy, Epps, Nededog, Reynolds, Rudd,
Brierton

ABSENT: Beck, Buckley, Bushor, McManus, Millnamow, Rogers, Jerson Romero,
Myrna Romero, Sasseen, Sauders, Canton, Howell, Hastings

STAFF PRESENT: Poudrier, Williams

Verify positing of meeting:

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 minutes

Motion by Epps to approve the past minutes providing they update item #12 stating that Asetamy volunteered to help Lazarte. Second by Nededog.

Lazarte, Asetamy, Epps, Nededog, Rudd, and Brierton voted yes, motion carried.

4. Approve of Financials

Poudrier reported that he is still waiting on funds from the Oklahoma Arts Council and that he applied for funding through the ARPA grant.

Motion by Nededog to approve the financial report, second by Rudd.

Lazarte, Asetamy, Epps, Nededog, Rudd, and Brierton voted yes, motion carried.

Chair Report:

5. Announcements

Thomas reported on the plans to build dedication benches for Mrs. Chavez and Mrs. Herzig. She shared possible designs and locations with the committee. She reported that the total cost of building the benches will be \$804 and she shared that Lazarte's family has already raised \$400. Poudrier reported that the McMahon Memorial Auditorium will support the benches by donating \$100 per bench. Asetamy's and Brierton's family both announced that they would donate \$100. Thomas announced that the benches have now been fully funded and they can move forward with the designs and building the benches pending the approval of both Mrs. Chavez' and Mrs. Herzig's families.



Thomas reported on the Luau Fundraiser. She asked for support from the committee because the budget is a little low. She then reported that she found a foundation that they can apply for funding through, and she has applied for up to \$5,000 to help fund the Luau. She then went on to report that she talked with the venue, the Museum of the Great Plains and they said that the fundraiser cannot be called a generic “Luau” because there will be cultures from all over the south pacific represented. Lazarte asked if there was a max capacity for the event as they will need to know how many tickets they can sell and if the venue would allow adult beverages. Thomas replied that they would be able to accommodate a lot of people and they will allow adult beverages.

Thomas announced that she has already had several donations for the auction and that they are looking promising. Poudrier offered to house the auction items at the Arts and Humanities office and to get with Williams if any subcommittees would like to meet at the auditorium. Poudrier suggested that the committee could set table prices much like the Arts for All Gala.

Lazarte asked if the fundraiser subcommittee should meet outside of the main International Festival Committee and then report back. Thomas said that she would like for that to happen. Lazarte volunteered to lead the subcommittee and several people joined her.

Vice Chair’s Report:

6. Announcements

Lazarte reported that she will chair the fundraiser committee and said that the first meeting must meet in the next couple of weeks because they need to get started on planning. They set their first meeting on January 9th, 2024 at 5:30pm in the McMahon Memorial Auditorium.

Lazarte also reported that she returned the banners from the 2023 International festival that she took home to iron.

Committee Reports:

7. Vendors

No report.

8. Sponsorships/Brochure Ads

Poudrier reported that his office sent out Christmas cards to last years sponsors.

9. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

No report.

10. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

No report.

11. Entertainment



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Poudrier reported that Jerson and Myrna Romero were interested in being on the Performer Selection and he asked if Epps would be interested in joining and Epps agreed.

Lazarte suggested that she could help on the South Stage seeing as Jerson and Myrna Romero will be working the North Stage.

Thomas reported that she has Buckley set to run the Interactive Area and Sauders set to run the Children's Area.

Poudrier reported that the Performer Selection will be a subcommittee that will be supported by his office.

12. Volunteers

No report.

13. Decorations

Thomas reported that everyone should be helping with the decorations.

14. Beer Booth

Thomas reported that the Knights of Columbus would like to run the beer booth at the 2024 International Festival.

15. Drink Booth

Thomas reported that she has Rudd down to lead the Drink Booth.

16. Information Booth

Thomas reported that Howell and McManus are set to lead the Information Booth.

Staff Reports:

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

Poudrier reported that he and his staff are happy to help and they will be supporting the luau fundraiser.

Business Items:

18. Form 2024 Headline Performer Subcommittee and set meeting time(s).

Poudrier said that he would send an email out since the majority of the performer selection committee are not in attendance.

19. Set meeting times and dates for Vendor Subcommittee.

There was a bit of discussion on who was on the vendor subcommittee for the 2023 International Festival. Poudrier reported that Williams was wanting to lead the vendor subcommittee and Thomas and Lazarte agreed. Poudrier asked if Asetamy would like to be on the subcommittee as she is a vendor and Thomas asked Brierton if she or Hastings would like to join.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Announcements:

Nededog wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Thomas announced that a few members will be leaving the committee and asked the current to see if they know of anyone who would like to join. She said that with everyone helping this past year, the festival went pretty smoothly.

Nededog asked if the Luau will be open to the public and Lazarte replied that it will be open to the public and they will be selling tickets but the prices have not been set yet. She announced that a lot of the details will be discussed at the fundraiser subcommittee meeting on January 9th.

The International Festival Committee gifted Lazarte with a condolence card for the passing of her brother.

Adjournment: 5:50pm