



International Festival 2021

A project of the City of Lawton and the Lawton Arts & Humanities Council



**Meeting
Regular Meeting
International Festival Committee
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.
McMahon Auditorium Lobby**

Bobbi Whitson
Chair

Mark Sprague
Vice Chair

Sandra Antoine
Molly Buckley
Dinah Lazarte
Stan Melby, LAHC Rep.
Dr. Judy Neale
Kathy Sauders
Dory Thomas, LAHC Rep.
American Indian Club
Chamorro Society of Texoma
Filipino American Assoc.
Mexican Folkloric Dancers

Billie A. Whipp
Administrator

Michael Leal
Arts Coordinator

Tereasa Neeley
Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Whitson, Sprague, Buckley, Lazarte, Melby (LAHC Rep.), Neale, Sauders, Thomas, American Indian Club, Chamorro Society, Mexican Folkloric Dancers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Antoine and Filipino American Assoc.

GUESTS PRESENT: Pat Reynolds, Journey Productions

STAFF PRESENT: Whipp, Leal, Morman, and Neeley

Chair Whitson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

1. Consider approving minutes for June 2020 meeting. Motion by Buckley, second by Lazarte to approve the minutes of the June 2020 meeting. Roll call results: Sprague, Buckley, Lazarte, Melby, Neale, Sauders, Thomas, American Indian Club, Chamorro Society, and Mexican Folkloric Dancers voted yes. Motion Carried.
2. Consider approving January 2021 financial report. Whipp reviewed the financial report and stated that the fee for the FY19/20 Audit will be split with LAHC as in the past since the majority of transactions are for the festival waiting on final invoice. Motion by Lazarte, second by Sprague to approve financial report as presented. Roll call results: Sprague, Buckley, Lazarte, Melby, Neale, Sauders, Thomas, American Indian Club, Chamorro Society and Mexican Folkloric Dancers voted yes. Motion Carried.
3. Consider 2021 Chair and Vice-Chair. Whipp reported that due to the cancellation of the 2020 festival no chair and vice-chair were elected and asked for nominations from the floor at this time. Lazarte recommended keeping current Chair (Whitson) and VC (Sprague) for 2021. Discussion ensued and Whitson and Sprague agreed to serve again. Motion by Lazarte, second by Thomas to approve 2021 Chair, Bobbi Whitson and VC, Mark Sprague. Roll call results: Buckley, Lazarte, Melby, Neale, Sauders, Thomas, American Indian Club, Chamorro Society, and Mexican Folkloric Dancers voted yes. Sprague abstained. Motion Carried.
4. Consider and take action on the 2021 festival as needed. Whitson asked members for their input regarding moving forward with the 2021 festival considering the ongoing Covid 19 situation and keeping the community safe. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons and the consensus was to tentatively move forward with sending out applications and to monitor upcoming community gatherings such as the Cultural Festival on Fort Sill, Rattlesnake Festival in Apache, and the Park Stomp in Medicine Park and to meet again in May to reevaluate the situation with a final decision to be made by June. Whipp stated that if necessary, there could be other options than canceling such as having a scaled-down event and possibly utilizing the auditorium for performances so that the International Festival can still have its name out in the community. Motion by Lazarte, second by Buckley to tentatively move forward and monitor the situation at this time. Roll call results: Sprague,



Buckley, Lazarte, Melby, Neale, Sauders, Thomas, American Indian Club, Chamorro Society, and Mexican Folkloric Dancers voted yes. Motion Carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

5. Resignation of Maressa Martin – Whitson reported that Martin submitted her resignation. She was previously in charge of the Parade of Nations and had done an outstanding job and will be missed. She asked to contact Kealii Thompson to see if she would be interested in organizing the Parade of Nations this year. She also asked to submit the names of anyone interested in serving on the festival committee to Whipp.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

6. 2021 poster design – Whipp reported that there were only four entries last year and asked since students are not able to participate could one of the designs from last year be considered or one that Leal has created. Discussion ensued and the consensus was to use the poster Leal created with some editing changes.
7. Drink booth – Sprague reported he received an email that the prices for Pepsi products are increasing and will have more information once they submit a current proposal.
8. Beer Booth – Sprague stated that he will reach out to Shawn (SW Sales) or Fabian (Red Dirt Grill) to see if they are interested in providing the beer booth again this year.

2021 COMMITTEES

9. Brochure Ad Sales / Sponsorships – Whipp reported that Goodyear and Lawton Evening Optimist Club gave a sponsorship last year and wanted it rolled over to the 2021 IF. She stated that due to the pandemic that overall sponsorships may be down this year. She would like to wait until a final decision has been made before sending out sponsorship packets for this year.
10. Marketing / Publicity – Whipp reported that we can post tentative festival dates on social media but include a statement that it is dependent on the COVID-19 situation. Heavier advertising usually starts around June.
11. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony – See #5. Whipp reported that Ms. Tommie Nicholas, Adjudications Officer, OKC Field Office for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service has retired and at this time it is unclear if that office will agree to coordinate the Naturalization Ceremony. However, if we are able to host the ceremony Judge Erwin will participate.
12. Entertainment
 - a. South Stage – Buckley agreed to be the stage manager for the South Stage.
 - b. North Stage – Lazarte agreed to be the stage manager for the North Stage.
 - c. Interactive Area – Whipp reported that there is a great new and improved interactive area, the Patriot Pavilion.
 - d. Roaming Performers – Whitson stated they need a volunteer to coordinate any possible roaming performers.
 - e. Street Dance – Whipp reported that Wyatt who oversaw the street dances has resigned. Discussion ensued and the consensus was to not schedule a street dance since many headliners already encourage patrons to dance in front of the stage. Whipp asked committee members to consider changing the festival hours to ending

at 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. Discussion ensued. Motion by Buckley, second by Sauders to not schedule a street dance and to close the festival at 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. Roll call results: Sprague, Buckley, Lazarte, Melby, Neale, Sauders, Thomas, American Indian Club, Chamorro Society, and Mexican Folkloric Dancers voted yes. Motion Carried.

13. Children's Area – MHS Key Club – Sauders reported that the Key Club is looking forward to hosting the Children's area again and already have events planned.
14. Information Booth – Thomas agreed to oversee the Information booth.
15. Volunteers – Thomas agreed to oversee the volunteers.
16. Decorations – Lazarte agreed to oversee the decorations.
17. Drink Booth – Sprague agreed to oversee the drink booth.

STAFF UPDATES

Whipp reported that she does not know at this time if trustee labor will be available for the setup and tear down of the festival or if it will need to be contracted out.

OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Whitson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Leal reported that this year's Student Performance was going virtual with a presentation of "The Rainbow Fish Musical" performed by 16 young LCT cast members. The performance can be accessed online starting March 24th through April 2nd and he asked committee members to share the information.

ADJOURN

Chair Whitson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.



Chair



Date Approved