City Swim Project/Buffalo Tide
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2026

Attendees: Mike Telesco, Mike Switalski, Annetta Jackson, Charisse Freeman, Kristy Russell, Rick Marable, Dennis Wilson, Jocelyn Guthrie, Nekia Davis, Barrett Erbe, Rich Bleichfeld, Jean Lalomia.
Special guest: Lamont Williams.
Absent: Yvonne DuBois.

The Executive Board Meeting of the City Swim Project/Buffalo Tide was called to order at 6:03 PM on Monday, March 16, 2026 via Zoom conference, Buffalo, New York.

1) Call to Order. 6:03 PM.
2) Roll Call.
3) Mission Statement. Reading.
4) Approval of March 16, 2026 Agenda.
    a) Addition to 9.1: Rick M and Yvonne D.
    b) Motion: To approve with additions the Agenda for March 16, 2026. Rick M. Second: Annetta J. Approved.
5) Approval of Minutes for January 15, 2026.
    a) Motion: To approve the January 2026 Minutes: Kristy R. Second: Annetta J. Approved.
6) Financial Report. Mike S.
    a) $122,585.98 (current; QuickBooks). $94,000 (assets outstanding: City of Buffalo; Erie County; M&T Bank). Payroll: $10,500 and Credit card: $5,422.43 (March) and $2226.95 (April).
    b) Charisse F and Mike S reconcile monthly accounts, then share with Finance Committee.
    c) Incoming June 2026 projection: $356,981.83 and government grant (OCFS) of $10,000 expected. An outgoing amount of $344,961 is budgeted.
    d) Lamont W (Guest) addressed funding. Reductions are due largely to Wilson Grant decrease and Cullen delay. Prepared or in progress: Erie County Prime Time (10,000); Erie County Sports in Education (50,000); Community Foundation Project Play (23,000); Foundation 214 (75,000); Cullen Foundation (will reapply in January, 2027).
    e) Evidence based data is essential to support our requests (5 years). There is concern for enough funding. Discussion held. Requests for a key to help explain our funding sources chart. Cuts to accommodate shortfall?
    f) Pending: United Way (20,000/year for two years); Project Play (40,000 over two years. Should hear in the coming months).
    g) Potentials: Step into Swim; Dicks Sporting Goods Foundation; Paul & Helen Ellis Foundation.
    h) Water? Still trying to get answers from BPS. Belle Center remains closed. City of Buffalo : Potential for a budget increase and possible outdoor lessons. Further, request for time expansion to Mondays has been made.
    i) Proposed: In person committee meeting(s) with preparation through phone calls and research using historical data. Dates for this/these to be decided.
    j) We are currently in the black but our projected shortfall is serious. What to be done?
    k) Next steps: Activate Finance Committee; Documentation of data; Improvements targeted.
7) Committee Creation. Mike T.
    a) Recommended that two committees be formed to benefit CSP/BT.

1) Motion: To have a City Swim Project Gala Event Committee. Barrett E. Second: Jocelyn G. Discussion held. Approved. Committee: Dennis W, Mike T, Nekia D, and Charisse F. Suggestions: Lamont W and two parents.
2) Motion: To create a Governance Committee. Nekia D. Second: Jocelyn G. Discussion held. Approved. Will review the Handbook; the Mission; and the Bylaws. Committee: Barrett E, Jocelyn G, and Nekia D (back up). Others welcome.

8) Issabella Spann. Mike S.
   a) Freelance grant writer. She has submitted her resume and fee schedule. Discussion held. Tabled. Further information to be emailed.

9) Board Candidates. Mike T.
   a) Yvonne D and Rick M are stepping down. So many thanks for your service.
   b) Jocelyn G, Rick M, and Annetta J interviewed two candidates for the vacant Board positions. These were Chris Ekimoff, CPA/Forensic accountant and Stephanie Cabral Belasik, Director of Marketing for the Bar Association of Erie County. Both are recommended.
      Motion: To add Chris Ekimoff as a new member to the Board. Rick M. Second: Barrett E. Discussion. Approved.
      Motion: To invite Stephanie Cabral Belasik to be a new member to the Board. Jocelyn G. Second: Rick M. Discussion. Approved.
   c) An email will be sent to introduce Mike T and then will be followed by a phone call to invite each to join the Board.

10) Background Checks. Mike T.
    a) Please finish all required paperwork, etc. Please note: Barrett E has now completed all.

11) Old Business. None.

12) New Business. Mike T.
    a) Foundation 214. March meeting rescheduled for April. Letter of intent to be filed by end of March.
    b). In person meetings? Discussion held. Email from Mike T with details for May 21 meeting.

13) Adjourn.
    Motion: Charisse F. Second: Barrett E. Approved. 7:57 PM

Next Meeting: March 21, 2026

Draft minutes respectfully submitted: Jean Lalomia