

City Swim Project/Buffalo Tide
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 21, 2026

Attendees: Mike Telesco, Mike Switalski, Annetta Jackson, Charisse Freeman, Kristy Russell, Rick Marable, Dennis Wilson, Barrett Erbe, Stephanie Belasik, Chris Ekimoff, Jean Lalomia. Special guest: Lamont Williams.

Absent: Jocelyn Guthrie, Nekia Davis, Kristy Russell, Rich Bleichfeld.

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. 6:07 PM.
- 2) Roll Call.
- 3) Mission Statement.
- 4) Approval of May 21, 2026 Agenda.
 - a) Motion: To approve, with addition, the Agenda for May 21, 2026. Barrett E. Second: Dennis W. Approved.
- 5) Approval of Minutes for March 16, 2026.
 - a) Motion: To approve the March, 2026 Minutes: Dennis W. Second: Barrett E. Approved.
- 6) New Member Introductions. Mike T.
 - a) Stephanie Belasik
 - b) Chris Ekimoff.
 - c) A warm welcome to both.
- 7) Financial Report. Mike S and Mike T.
 - a) Balance: \$134,000. Monies outstanding: Erie County: \$12,000; United Way: Paperwork refiled. \$20,000. New approvals: Erie County Prime: \$10,000; Project Swim (amount not known).
 - b) 2025-2026 Budget sheet. Presented. Questions/answers. Discussion held.
 - c) 2026-2027 Budget projection. Presented. Questions/answers. Discussion held. Although a slight increase in our monies, we are still operating with an expected shortfall.
 - d) Grants. Lamont W. Updates: Received: EC Youth Bureau Prime Time; \$10,000; United Way: \$20,000. Two grants pending: 2026 EC Youth Bureau Youth Sports in Education Fund: \$50,000; Foundations 214: \$75,000. In process: Margaret L Wendt Foundation: \$50,000; New Era Cap Foundation: \$15,000; Annual Give 716 Program Registration (specific date and time doubles). Potentials: Every Kid Sports: registrations/family driven; Children's Funding Project. Discussion/ questions. Pending grants notifications? Within the next few months. Concerns voiced. What could be modified to save money? Perhaps the number of swimmers served. We do have some reserve monies available which would cover until approximately late fall. Action plan(s): Use of social media to advertise; Develop a plan with dates to take action and actions needed to be taken; Set Finance Committee meeting(s)/ dates to examine the above. Mike S to send email to begin this. Question: Individual donors? Only on website.
- 8) Event Committee. Mike T and Dennis W.
 - a) City Swim Project Gala. Email sent. Dennis W and Charisse F have responded. Much more involvement needed. Date to be set then an action plan built. Committee(s)/ expectations developed. Discussion held. Email to be sent by Dennis W to Events Committee.
 - b) Happy Hour events. Discussion held. Historical perspective given. Future? Suggestion: Dennis's club. Date(s), publicity, tickets, Board member involvement, etc. can be decided.

Establish approximate costs associated with the event(s). Forward to the Events Committee.

- 9) Governance Committee. Mike T and Mike S.
 - a) Bylaws Review. Meeting necessary. Barrett E will set this up. Mike S will send the current bylaws via email.
 - b) Board Handbook. Will be combined with above for review/ updating. Barrett E, Stephanie B, and Chris E to handle.
 - c) New Board Member Onboarding. Process piloted by Stephanie B and Chris E. Welcome.
- 10) Isabella Spann, Grant Writer. Mike S.
 - a) Additional information was emailed.
- 11) Expiring USA Swimming Requirements. Mike T.
 - a) Emails sent March 1, 2026. Please complete.
- 12) Old Business. None.
- 13) New Business. Mike S.
 - a) Visit by BPS Board of Ed At-Large Member A Zullich (arranged by Bflo Common Council Member J Golombek). Met with Mike S and Coach Rick A for a two hour weekend chat to introduce our program to her. Weeks later, Mike S spoke at the City Budget Public Hearing. While there, he invited Council Members Zullich and E Bohen to visit our pool site. Parents and swimmers participated. Well received.
 - b) Board of Ed Meeting. May 20, 2026. Dennis W spoke as did two parents. Feeling/ feedback was very positive. Planning for June meeting attendance. Also, Channel 7/ Holly Kirkpatrick interviewed Mike S and piece ran on TV. Superintendent is now aware.
 - c) City of Bflo Pool Improvements and Programming Committee. Mike S to be a member. City personnel in transition and busy. Discussion on possible summer program and funding issues. Projected budgets were requested and submitted. Eight weeks in three pools (JFK, Kensington, Masten), no academics, insurance covered. Weekdays and weekends. Lifeguards an issue. Registration to be done differently.
 - d) Update of CSP Board Member Information. Email sent April 14, 2026. Please adjust.
 - e) Juneteenth. June 13-14. Plans in place. Board invited. Email to come with specifics.
 - f) Lackawanna? Not at their location. However, Project Play has set money aside to support a program, so, maybe.
- 14) Adjourn. 7:45 PM

Next Meeting: July 16, 2026

Draft minutes respectfully submitted: Jean Lalomia