



West Valley Slammers  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 3, 2025

## Meeting Minutes

### I. Roll Call

Nikki Pirotta (president), Lindsey Kouvaris (secretary), Holly Carwana, Steve Eggers, Brandon Rosato, Lauren Matheny, Ben Skinner, Lisa Fukuyama, Dan Fukuyama (remotely), Denise Chan, Brandon Studley, Megan Wikramanayake, Carrie Moreno (via proxy to Megan Wikramanayake), Jenny Rempel, Michelena Goddard (via proxy to Jenny Rempel), Cat D'Aulerio (remotely), Jason Griggs (via proxy to Lindsey Kouvaris)

One member of the public was present.

### II. Confirmation of Quorum and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

### III. Public Comment Time (2 min. per comment)

David Ordonez asked to add a player to his team. The player has played for the Slammers previously and is not happy with her current situation. Nikki informed him the request had been discussed by the Executive Board and that the league was awaiting a response from USA Softball.

### IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Feb. 3 meeting via unanimous consent. The motion passed.

### V. Cause for Applause

- A. Opening Day was awesome. Shout out to Jason and Holly for their work organizing the day. Thank you also to Marcy and JR for stocking and managing the Snack Shack.

### VI. Therapydia California (Robert Lucente)

- A. Nikki read an email from Robert Lucente, the proprietor of Therapydia. Robert said he would like to offer free hitting evaluations for girls ages 8+ years and follow up with exercises to improve strength.
- B. A suggestion was made to develop a clinic and/or to provide training to coaches so they could incorporate these exercises into their practices.

- C. The Board requested a formal proposal and/or more information so that they could better understand the ins and outs before making a decision.

## **VII. Financial Report**

### **A. Financial Report**

1. Ben shared information re: current bank account balances. The league continues to have a healthy balance in its accounts.

### **B. Tax update**

1. Our accountants have been very thorough this year. Though it has been a more demanding process, their efforts are appreciated. The league's taxes will be filed on time.

### **C. Non-Profit Status Update**

1. Our non-profit status has not been filed in three years. We are in the process of getting our status reinstated with the state and everything in that regard is going smoothly.

### **D. Budget**

1. Board members should provide real/tangible pricing in advance for projected expenses so that the Board can have a thorough understanding before providing approvals.
2. For larger events with many expenses, a spreadsheet is most helpful. For one-off items, board members can send a link, quote, etc.
3. The Exec Board and Board commit to responding quickly so that approved purchases can move forward.

### **E. Investing Funds**

1. US Bank has reached out to us about putting funds in a CD. They have good rates right now.
2. Ben said there may be some other options, which he will look into.
3. We may also want to be mindful of which banks have generous policies in the event that we need to pull funds out after they are invested.
4. Options will be researched and presented at the next meeting.

## **VIII. Opening Day**

- A. Opening Day was very successful.
- B. The main feedback was that the announcements were not loud enough. We should look into adding more speakers next year.
- C. Sushi Confidential was here and would like to get more involved. They mentioned providing food on some weeknights—teriyaki bowls, simple sushi rolls, etc. Before moving forward, they would like to do a survey to gauge interest from Slammers families.

## **IX. Spring Break**

- A. A motion was made to approve by unanimous consent moving our next meeting to March 31 to accommodate the league's spring break. The motion passed.
- B. The Board discussed how league-sponsored activities will be handled during spring break. A motion was made to approve by unanimous consent that all league activities are canceled from April 7-12. The motion passed.

*Holly left early and assigned a proxy vote to Lindsey.*

**X. Schedule Updates**

- A. The inter-league schedule has been a challenge. It was supposed to come out in mid-February but was not released until last week. It only contained games through March 22. We are hoping the rest of the schedule will be released this week.
- B. Several 8U families have complained about games being held on Wednesday evenings as they have other planned activities. Nikki will reach out to 8U coaches to tell them that if they cannot participate on Wednesdays, those games can be rescheduled to the end of the day on a Saturday. In that case, teams would have two games on a Saturday.
- C. Park Permit Updates
  - 1. Nikki is working through some challenges with the City regarding use of Camden, Starbird, and Hathaway parks. She is hoping to resolve the issues tomorrow.
  - 2. The practice schedule will be released as soon as City fields are sorted out.

**XI. Picture Day**

- A. Lindsey presented pricing for Picture Day. The league generally provides Memory Mates for each player and a sponsorship plaque to each sponsor.
- B. A motion was made to approve through unanimous consent moving forward with providing one memory mate to each player and to provide large sponsorship plaques to each sponsor for a total of approximately \$1900. The motion passed.

**XII. Hit-a-Thon**

- A. The idea of team baskets for the auction was presented to Team Managers during the manager's meeting. Nikki and Jenny will work to pull together information and share it with teams.
- B. Jenny solicited feedback re: vendor ideas for the day. She will create a proposed budget for the event.

**XIII. Volunteer Coordinator**

- A. Dan found a platform called Point that he believes will meet our needs. It's a free app, but has a paid version if we need the added functionality. Dan asked the Board to send him volunteer needs so he can input them in the system and test it out.
- B. Angela White has offered to step into the role of volunteer coordinator. A motion was made to approve Angela White into the role of Volunteer Coordinator by unanimous consent. The motion passed.
- C. The Board discussed how tracking volunteer hours will work and what role team managers will need to play. The Board also addressed consequences if hours are not completed. The goal is to spread volunteerism more evenly around the league and to get families to take an active role in the Slammers.

#### **XIV. Field Maintenance & Safety**

- A. Nikki will touch base with Jason regarding additional field maintenance days and/or afternoons. There is always a need after it rains.
- B. Jason does not plan to continue in the Field Maintenance role next year; we are looking for someone to shadow him.
- C. The bathroom cleaning schedule will be increased now that the season has begun. We should schedule janitorial to come midday during large events.
- D. Pitching Machines on Bagby fields
  - 1. Nikki recapped a discussion that happened among the Exec Board regarding the use of pitching machines in the 8U division.
  - 2. Liability concerns were raised regarding allowing “personal” pitching machines to be used since we don’t always know if they are well maintained.
  - 3. There was discussion regarding safety, liability, and overall readiness of our 8U players to hit off machines. Much of the concern centered around 8U rec players. There was general agreement that 8U rec and Select/All Stars should all be addressed.
  - 4. A motion was made to approve the use of pitching machines for all 8U levels. The motion was seconded and did not pass.

**8 yes, 9 no, 1 abstention**

- 5. A motion was made to approve the use of pitching machines for 8U Select and 8U All Stars. The motion was seconded and passed.

**17 yes, 0 nos, 1 abstention**

#### **XV. UIC Update**

- A. Twelve kids attended the junior umpire training, but the clinic ended early because of the rain.
  - 1. Several of the new junior umpires are not available for weekday games so we may still need parent support.
  - 2. We have some returning junior umpires as well.
- B. We have a handful of USA Softball umpires who will work with us directly. We will fill in the gaps through Choice.
- C. An idea was proposed to provide a ticket/coupon for umpires to use at the Snack Shack.
  - 1. A motion was made to approve by unanimous consent an umpire food coupon for junior and adult umpires. The motion passed.
- D. A question was raised about the pay rate for adult base umpires for championship games and/or Bagby Classic. No one knew the answer so Brandon R. will continue to investigate.

#### **XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

- A. May 10, 2025
- B. It’s time to begin ordering participation and championship trophies/medals. Lindsey confirmed she is already looking into this.
- C. The league may look into having the final 6U games on this day to encourage 6U participation on Closing Day.

- D. Nikki proposed the idea of silent games for 8U-12U.
- E. Nikki proposed the idea of ending Closing Ceremonies with a Movie Night. There was brief discussion about the feasibility of this with school district rules and the timing of sunset. We will continue to investigate.
- F. Nikki and Sam will talk offline about the game schedule for Championship Saturday.

**XVII. 2025 A-ball/Select Teams/All-Star Update**

- A. Nikki floated the idea of establishing a Select/All Star committee. The goal would be to address any issues that arise and report back to the Board so that the full board does not need to dedicate as much time to Select/All Star discussions. The general idea and structure of the committee is still being fleshed out. Nikki will continue to work on this, will consult with other members of the Board, and bring the idea back to the table at a later date.
- B. We should begin soliciting All Star coaches soon. All Star tryouts will be held on May 4.
- C. Tournament registration has already started through USA Softball. Tournaments fill quickly. Last year, Lisa registered for tournaments in advance and, once selected, coaches opted to keep, change, or cancel those reservations as desired. We will proceed similarly this year.

**XVIII. Bagby Classic**

- A. The Alexis Briski Tournament, which usually happens in fall, has been rescheduled for Father's Day Weekend—traditionally our weekend for Bagby Classic.
- B. Nikki will reach out to Los Gatos to confirm they are still moving forward. Pending their response, we need to solidify our dates for Bagby Classic.
- C. We also need to determine whether the Bagby Classic will include A-ball this year.
- D. A Bagby Classic coordinator is needed. Please reach out to Nikki if you have ideas.

**XIX. Misc.**

- A. The Board was asked to come with one idea for an improvement the league could make to the facilities or for the betterment of our relationship with the district.
- B. We should look at these ideas and improvements in the context of the larger goals of the league.
- C. The Board discussed ways in which the league could invest in the community, including in local elementary and middle schools where the Slammers is not as well known.

**XX. Next Meeting: Monday, March 31, 2025**

- A. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

**Items Approved Via Email**

- Board approved \$2,549 for a new slushie machine and \$189 for a hotdog roller.
- The Executive Board approved Hailey Jeziorske to play for 10U Select-Red for their

tournament the weekend of Feb. 15-16.

- The Executive Board approved a scholarship application for a late-registration 8U player.
- The Executive Board approved a \$2,500 budget to restock the Snack Shack ahead of Opening Day.
- The Executive Board approved 12U-A adding another player to their roster, pending USA Softball approval.

### **Upcoming Dates**

March 31	Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
April 27	Hit-a-Thon/Picture Day
May 4	All Star tryouts
May 10	Closing Ceremonies/Championship games