



West Valley Slammers
Board of Directors Meeting
Feb. 3 2025

Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call

Nikki Pirotta (president), Lindsey Kouvaris (secretary), Holly Carwana, Joe Rogove, Brandon Rosato, Steve Eggers, Jason Griggs, Lauren Matheny, Mat Sims, Marcy Sandoval, JR Sandoval, Ben Skinner, Brandon Studley, Dan Fukuyama, Michelena Goddard, Lisa Fukuyama (via proxy to Michelena Goddard), Carrie Moreno (remote attendance), Megan Wikramanayake (remote attendance), Jenny Rempel (remote attendance)

Two members of the public were present.

II. Confirmation of Quorum and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

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

There were no public comments at today's meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Jan. 6 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Cause for Applause

- A. Megan received a shoutout for her tremendous effort getting teams situated and evals ready.
- B. Jason was thanked for getting the fields ready for evals and applauded for the field prep clinic last weekend—it was really helpful and informative.
- C. Kudos was given to all the player agents for working through challenges and solving problems during the team formation process.
- D. Appreciation was offered to Cat for getting the uniforms ordered.

VI. Board Positions/Volunteer Roles

- A. New Scheduler
 - 1. Samantha Edie has officially taken over scheduling. She and Nikki worked together on the practice schedule and now Sam will be taking the reins.

B. Publicity Chair Update

1. Sarah Mudgett stepped down from her position. Her daughter has opted not to play again this season.
2. Denise Chan is interested in joining the board as Publicity Chair. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Denise Chan as Publicity Chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Volunteer Coordinator

1. We are still looking for a volunteer coordinator. Until we are able to fill this role, we may want to consider creating a subcommittee.
2. SignUp Genius has limitations and may not be our best option for securing and tracking volunteer hours going forward. Nikki asked the board to share any other ideas/resources/systems.
3. Nikki is planning to meet with our former volunteer coordinator to get her feedback on lessons learned last year.
4. With changes in how we are administering volunteer hours and with changes to the background check process, the responsibilities of this role will (hopefully) be more manageable than last year.
5. The Board was asked to suggest candidates if anyone comes to mind. If no one takes on the role, the player agents may need to assist with managing volunteer efforts in their division. Nikki will reach out to player agents to create a plan of action.

VII. Spring Rec Update

A. Total spring registration: 344

B. Spring clinics are complete. A coaches' meeting was also held in January.

C. 14U team update:

1. Unfortunately, we do not have a 14U team this year. There were 9 girls registered. Only one player could pitch and she did not want to be the sole pitcher. The team was also lacking a catcher. The families were understanding of the decision and some are looking to move to other leagues.
2. Other leagues are experiencing similar challenges; there are very few 14U rec teams locally. Next year, we may want to consider adjusting our registration process for 14U in order to garner more interest.
 - a) We should also consider talking to second year 12U players in spring to see what their plans are and to encourage them to stay with the Slammers in 14U rec.

D. Refunds (8u x 2, 10U x 1): Three families have changed their minds about participating this spring due to injuries or conflicts. The league will refund their registration fees.

E. The practice schedule is complete and rec practices began over the weekend.

F. City field updates:

1. We added Hammond, Hathaway, and Starbird parks to provide extra practice space. The new reservations cost \$2,672. A motion was made and seconded to approve the expense. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Nikki will reach out to 6U coaches who are using Fammatre and offer to let them change fields if they prefer to practice on dirt fields.
 3. Once games begin, we lose practice space at Bagby. Nikki will reach out to the City again to see if it's possible to secure more fields in March - May.
- G. 12U will be the only division to play inter-league this year since we do not have 14U and we have plenty of 10U teams. Joe will support Sam with integrating inter-league for 12U.
- H. Equipment distribution: As of now, equipment has been distributed. JR will assist any coaches who still need gear.

VIII. Umpire Update

- A. Update from USA Softball:
1. Junior umpires must register and pay the \$40 fee, but they do not have to have completed this task before the USA Softball umpiring clinic.
 2. Adults need to pay \$83 to register as an umpire and they will need to take Safe Sports. If they are a certified coach, they will not need to take Safe Sports, but they will still need to register and pay the \$83.
- B. Brandon R. is trying to set up an umpiring clinic here at Bagby.
- C. If we have a shortage of junior umpires, our bylaws say a parent will need to step in. Brandon will call USA Softball and see if parent volunteers need to register.
- D. Junior umpire age requirements:
1. Most junior umpires for the Slammers are 14 years old, although a few have been younger.
 2. The biggest concern is staffing 8U games because there are so many teams.
 3. A motion was made to allow kids 12+ to junior umpire with the understanding that 12U players would only umpire 8U games.
 - a) 17 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions
- E. Currently, junior base umpires are paid \$40/game, junior field umpires are paid \$25/game, and field crew is paid \$17/hour.
1. A motion was made that after a junior umpire has worked three complete games, the league will reimburse them for their registration fee (\$40). If they quit sooner than that, the reimbursement would not be in effect. The motion was seconded.
 - a) 17 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions
 2. A motion was made and seconded to pay the field crew at a rate of at least minimum wage.
 - a) 17 yes, 0 nos, 1 abstention

Ben Skinner joined the meeting.

IX. Sponsorship Update

- A. Sponsorships in 2025 are lower than 2024, but higher than 2023. This year we have a total of \$11,200 in sponsorships.

- B. Sponsors need to receive recognition during Opening Ceremonies. Michelena will invite the sponsors to attend. Holly will include recognition in the day's remarks. A suggestion was made to give the DJ a list of sponsors so they can give a shoutout in between songs.

X. Uniforms Update

- A. Rec uniforms have been ordered.
- B. A-ball uniforms have been ordered and have one more proof to go. David shared the designs with the board.
- C. New logo design
 - 1. Three primary logo options were shown for use for competitive teams. The Board narrowed the choice to one and asked for revisions, which were provided during the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the logo with the revisions. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 2. Three options were shown for a secondary, related logo that could be used on hats or other compact items. The Board narrowed the choices to two. A motion was made to adopt the logo with "WV" and "Slammers" Motion written across it. The motion was seconded and passed.
 - a) 17 yes, 0 nos, 2 abstentions

XI. Financial Report

- A. The league has a healthy balance of more than \$300K in the bank.
- B. Our 2024 taxes are finalized and have been sent to the CPA. Taxes are due at the end of this month.
- C. Our non-profit status with the state has been revoked for the last 2.5 years (federally, we are okay) because the proper paperwork was not filed. Ben is working to rectify that.
 - 1. One outstanding issue is that we do not have an active lease/memorandum of understanding with the Cambrian School District. Joe shared the last MOU he had, but the terms of the agreement have expired.
 - 2. We need to make sure the requirement to renew our non-profit status is passed along from year to year so it doesn't get overlooked again.
- D. We need to certify in Benevity that we are in good standing as a non-profit and eligible to receive funds. Nikki will work with Jenny to research what needs to be done and address this.
- E. Since we have an excess of funds, Nikki proposed coordinating an appreciation lunch for Bagby staff. Brandon S. will talk to the HSC president about the idea and circle back.

Joe left and did not designate a proxy.

XII. Opening Day

- A. Opening Day is scheduled March 1, 2025.
- B. Holly opened the floor for vendor recommendations and asked for assistance identifying someone to sing the National Anthem and throw the first pitch.

1. Brandon suggested having the youngest girl in the league throw a ball to the oldest player.
2. Steve suggested bringing back a high school player who played for the league previously. Various board members have contact information for high school players and agreed to share that info with Holly.

XIII. 2025 A-ball/Select Team Updates

- A. Select team fees need to be decided. 8U and 12U are not playing tournaments. 10U is playing in two tournaments.
- B. The Board discussed that a disproportionate amount of time has been spent talking about A-ball and Select. There was also conversation about how Spring Select tournaments will affect rec.
- C. A motion was made and seconded to set a base fee of \$50 for all Select teams with the understanding that teams will pay additional fees (e.g., uniforms) as applicable.
 1. 8U will pay \$50.
 2. 12U will pay \$100 to cover the extra expense of jerseys.
 3. 10U will pay \$50 plus uniform costs plus tournament fees.
 - a) A donor has offered to cover tournament fees for one of the 10U teams with matching funds from her employer.
 4. The rules for 8U Select are slightly different since USA Softball does not offer tournaments for that division. Since there are no other 8U Select teams in-district, USA Softball approved allowing our 8U Select teams to scrimmage peninsula teams.
- D. Since they have a tournament coming up, 10U Select would like to practice in the morning on Sunday, Feb. 9, which is outside the approved Select practice window. Their request was approved as long as there is not another 10U rec practice scheduled during that window.
- E. A-ball update and budget was tabled.

The remote connection was lost. Megan, Carrie, and Jenny were unable to participate in the last vote.

XIV. Vote to ratify playing rules

- A. A motion was made and seconded to ratify changes to the playing rules made at the December meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

XV. Next Meeting: Monday, March 3, 2025

- A. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Items Approved Via Email

- Board reviewed 10 play up requests and approved 6. Four were denied.
- The Executive Board reviewed and approved 7 scholarship requests. No requests were denied.
- The Board approved a practice schedule for A-ball and Select teams.
- The Board approved \$1,500 to purchase practice plans from MegRem Softball.
- The Board approved the purchase of 15 new Bownets at a cost of \$2,300.

- The Board approved \$3,211 to insure players through USA Softball.
- The Executive Board approved matching donation funds to be used for 10U Select (Vargas).

Upcoming Dates

Feb. 8	Field Maintenance day
Feb. 15	Snack Shack deep clean, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
TBD	Team Managers meeting
March 1	Opening Day
March 3	Board Meeting, 7 p.m.