

Minutes of the Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Board January 20th, 2026.

The Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 20th, 2026, at Mt. Vernon City Hall 520 Main Street. Parks Board members in attendance were Sarah Brown-Spurgeon, Jessica Zirkelbach, Adam Brothers, Bob Stemple, Willie Clark, Parks Director Michael Harshbarger, and Administrative Assistant Carly Carter.

Recommended Actions

SIGN CLAIMS- The motion to authorize claims was made by Adam Brothers and seconded by Bob Stemple. Motion Carried.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING- The motion to approve the amendments of the minutes for the December 15th, 2025, meeting was made by Bob Stemple and seconded by Adam Brothers. Motion carried.

BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS- The motion to approve the balance of accounts to be entered into the minutes subject for the audit for December was made by Bob Stemple seconded by Jessica Zirkelbach. Motion carried.

UPDATES:

New Board Member

Welcome to the newest Park Board Member Willie Clark.

We would also like to thank Kelly Cox for his many years of service. We will miss him on board.

Sarah Brown-Spurgeon is currently the longest serving member on the board; she will run the meeting until a new board president is elected.

Youth Basketball

The winter season for youth basketball is complete. The season finished well. The 5th grade program through the school needs some work to fix some issues. But overall, that went well. There was an imbalance of teams in 5th grade since it was through the schools, but overall participation was great. Our basketball program split teams evenly and it went great.

OLD BUSINESS:

2026 Budget

The 2026 budget was approved by the state. We have a lot of the edit lines bumped up and a salary line for a full-time maintenance position. The maintenance department wants to wait to fill that position right away to look for the right person. The part-time maintenance crew have agreed to work more hours to help maintenance cover that spot.

Hafer Meeting

The meeting with Hafer was on January 13th with the representatives from Hafer and the pool experts the company works with were able to zoom in. We now have a timeline for this project. We discussed the steps moving forward. The next step is finding funding. Hafer wants to know what we are looking for in this project so we can start receiving designs for the project. If we have designs, we think it might be easier to raise funds. We will be forming a committee for the pool, and this committee will be working on funding this project. Sarah Brown-Spurgeon has already reached out to some people to join. Two board members can join this committee. Adam Brothers will be the other member joining this committee. Michael is part of the Rural Development Authority, and he is going to reach out to those members.

Michael is also going to follow up with the attorney about her financial team that might be able to help us.

Adam Brothers advised the board of a CenterPoint grant that we might qualify for. This will be investigated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elect New Board President

For the board to elect a president, any current board member can nominate someone on the board. Someone will put forth a name and a simple majority will elect a new president.

Adam Brothers nominates Sarah Brown- Spurgeon. She is the longest serving member and has had experience running the meeting in the president's absence.

Sarah Brown-Spurgeon said if you would want her in that position she would love to accept.

All board members were in favor of Sarah Brown-Spurgeon taking the president seat on the board. Board Members in favor were Adam Brothers, Willie Clark, Bob Stemple, and Jessica Zirkelbach.

New Equipment

The first round of new equipment will be a side x side. Due to the gator being totaled the maintenance department needs another. They have found one that had one owner and in great shape. It is 2017 and half the price of a new one.

We are also looking for a golf cart for the department. This golf cart will just be driven through the part on the roads. This golf cart does not need to go off road. Darin Toler the maintenance foreman has one in great shape for sale.

The board was concerned about the tires on the cart. Micheal is going to look into that and get back to the board.

Michael also had pictures of these two vehicles for the board to see.

The board is ok with Michael moving forward with the purchase of the side by side. Motion was made for purchase by Jessica Zirkelbach and seconded by Willie Clark. Motion carried.

February Meeting

The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for February 17th, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Mt. Vernon City Hall. 520 Main St.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Adam Brothers and seconded by Jessica Zirkelbach. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

MICHAEL HARSHBARGER _____

SARAH BROWN-SPURGEON _____