

Minutes of the Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Board February 17th,
2026.

The Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 17th, 2026, at Mt. Vernon City Hall 520 Main Street. Parks Board members in attendance were Sarah Brown-Spurgeon, Jessica Zierkelbach, Adam Brothers, Willie Clark, Parks Director Michael Harshbarger, and Administrative Assistant Carly Carter. Unable to attend tonight's meeting is Bob Stemple.

Recommended Actions

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

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING- The motion to approve the amendments of the minutes for the January 2026 meeting was made by Willie Clark 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 Adam Brothers seconded by Willie Clark. Motion carried.

UPDATES:

Hageman Park

The mayor is close to getting the plans for the skate park out at Hageman Park. The event center construction was halted due to issues with ground stabilization, but that project is now back up and running. The mayor would like to purchase solar lights for Hageman Park that will be on the walking paths and courts. The board is in favor of the lights. There are courts out there that will be accessible in the evening with installation of solar lights. Michael told the board that we will hopefully be moving out to Hageman in our new offices by next spring. There will need to be a new position created for event coordinating when the new events center is completed and that will be through city hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hafer Meeting

The Hafer meeting last week went well. The board was sent the minutes of that meeting. There was a pool specialist there to talk about our vision with this pool project. After the discussion Hafer is expecting to have a few different plans together for this pool project. There will be three options presented and this plan will be able to be customized. Options for the project will be nice to present to the community. We communicated that we want

this pool to be accessible to all ages. There was a lot of information given by the pool specialist brought in. Michael has a capacity goal of 500 but depending on price of the project if the capacity could go up that would be beneficial.

Our city attorney is in the process of getting us in contact with a dedicated financial team to help us find funding. This will be with Baker, Tilly, and Boss.

Golf Cart

Michael was able to test drive the golf cart that we are wanting to purchase for the department. It can get around the trail and the areas of the park needed for. The board was previously hesitant about this cart due to the tires. Michael told the board he was pleased with it and that it meets his expectations for use through Hageman and Brittlebank Park.

A motion to approve the purchase of this golf cart was made by Willie Clark and seconded by Jessica Zierkelbach. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Center

Park Board Member Willie Clark wanted to discuss some issues about the Community Center with the board. Clark says he has pickleball players come to him with complaints about the center pertaining to the cleanliness. The players would like access to the cleaning closet to use the dust mop. Clark said he has got complaints about the bathrooms not being cleaned. He wants to be in touch with whoever oversees the community center and meet with them to all get on the same page.

New Equipment

The big-ticket item to be purchased an enclosed cab mower with attachment. Over the next year with all the green space coming in at Hageman Park we are going to new two of these. The attachment will help with plowing snow and a heavy-duty broom to help clean the trail paths. With the trade in of our older mowers the total price looks like \$91,000. Another option is to lease one of the mowers with the intentions of purchasing the other within the year. The salesman at John Deere will be sending the lease contract with the details to answer any questions the board may have about the lease contract. Michael is hesitant to purchase both at this current time because he wants to make sure, he has money in the budget in case he has to pay any invoices pertaining to Hafer with the pool project moving forward. The board wants the department to have the equipment it needs to run efficiently. Michael will get the contract details and keep the board updated on this situation.

The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for March 16th, 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 _____