

Minutes of the Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Board March 16th, 2026.

The Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday March 16th, 2026, at Mt. Vernon City Hall 520 Main Street. Parks Board members in attendance were Park Board President 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 minutes of the last meeting was made by Bob Stemple and seconded by Willie Clark. Motion carried.

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

UPDATES:

Youth Soccer

Registration for the spring soccer season started the prior week, Online registration is open and the forms went out to all the schools. Also, email notifications to all past customers. Registration will end on March 27th and evaluations for the participants will be March 30th. We are still looking for a few referees for the season. We got new nets for the big goals and there was a suggestion by the board to get padding on the small goals to prevent injuries with the kids running into the goals. Michael will keep the board updated during the spring season.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Equipment

The new equipment that needs to be purchased is an enclosed mower with attachments for our maintenance department. We need two of these mowers but for now Michael wants to lease one. We can set up a lease with John Deere for 5 years at \$760 a month. One mower with attachments in the lease. Details of the lease have been handed to the board members. When the contract with John Deere has ended, we have the option to buy the equipment for a \$1. Michael will get the final contract details and update the board.

A motion to approve the purchase of the mower on lease from John Deere was made by Bob Stemple and seconded by Jessica Zirkelbach. Motion Carried.

Hafer Meeting

Michael and some of the members of the pool committee attended another meeting with Hafer. At this meeting the members were presented with 3 options for designs. At three different price points. We can adjust and add as needed to the design. Hafer has worked with other surrounding counties and has a lot of advice for this project. They suggested that we make the plans for this pool bigger than expected. The pool expert that is working with the committee and Hafer was at the meeting and went over the designs. Hafer got more detail into what the committee wants and comments on the designs, so they have a better understanding of what we are looking to do with this pool Hafer stated that they have a timeline that is two years out of this project.

The mayor told everyone that the YMCA is interested in working together on the pool project. Michael wants to meet with the YMCA to talk about working together on this. Michael will move forward with this progress and report back to the board.

Hageman Park

There has been an issue with ground stabilization with the construction of the new building at Hageman Park. There is still some work to be done but the project end date is projected for April 2027. The Boys and Girls club plans to have space within the new building.

Jessica Zirkelbach offered to donate the extra trees she will have after earth day for our parks.

The mayor is waiting on the final designs for the skate park, but that project is still ready to move forward.

The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for April 20th, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Mt. Vernon City Hall. 520 Main St.

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

Meeting adjourned.

MICHAEL HARSHBARGER _____

SARAH BROWN-SPURGEON _____