

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

The Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday April 20th, 2026, at Mt. Vernon City Hall 520 Main Street. Parks Board members in attendance were Park Board President Sarah Brown-Spurgeon, Adam Brothers, Willie Clark, Parks Director Michael Harshbarger, and Administrative Assistant Carly Carter. Unable to attend this month's meeting is Jessica Zirkelbach and Bob Stemple.

Recommended Actions

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

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING- The motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Adam Brothers 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 March was made by Adam Brothers seconded by Willy Clark. Motion carried.

UPDATES:

Youth Soccer

The 2026 Spring Youth Soccer season started last Saturday the 18th, and it was rained out. There will be make up games tonight for K-1 and 2-3rd grade. Mark Peerman did a great job getting the shirts for us on time. Pictures will be the following Saturday. People stepped up to be coaches this season. Michael and Dilean are happy. The grass is doing good. It's been thicker. Alpha Organics will continue treating the grass. Savannah and Riley Snodgrass, our running Junior Kickers and doing a great job. Michael will keep the board updated on the season.

Willow Tree Event

Willow Tree Event out at Brittlebank Park was postponed from the 18th to yesterday the 19th. They had beautiful weather for it. Micheal and Dilean helped with the event. It went well. Willow Tree along with Mudpuppy Palace, and Family Matters were at the event and set up. They also had Disc Golf set up on the course.

Skate Park

Michael has been attending meetings at the Cox Group for the Skate Park that's being constructed in Brittlebank Park. This group is a community project funding group. They are

securing funding for this project and flyers will be made to take to schools and get the word out about the park project.

This group will also be a great foundation for the pool funding we are looking for. The Cox Group has a lot of connections and will be very helpful with the pool project. Micheal will keep the board updated on this matter.

New Truck

Michael finally got a new truck. He was able to purchase a 2026 Chevy Silverado. This truck was about \$45,000. The mayor helped with the purchase and the department paid \$10,000. This is a nice truck; Micheal is very grateful. He is happy that he no longer has to jumpstart the old truck every morning.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hafer/Pool

Michael received the first Hafer invoice for this business with us. There will be a monthly invoice for the work they are doing for us. Michael is hoping the amount on future invoices are like the first. Money to pay these invoices can come out of the 400s line, improvements. The money was budget for this reason. Schematics for the pool project are coming soon. At the last meeting with Hafer they were able to drill down more of the design. At this meeting they talked more about the other buildings on the project like the restrooms and concessions. The lifeguard area was discussed on how we would want it laid out. Outside lockers and a few inside lockers. We will be looking into RFID lockers. This meeting was very beneficial in finalizing more of the details from the previous meetings. We will be getting 3D rendering to show to the public. There will be areas to show pool sponsors as well. Michael is still waiting to hear about the Financial Team we will be working with. Michael will keep the board updated on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Youth Football

There is a new high school football coach. He is wanted to work together with us on the football program. Coach Buchannan and Brenner had been very beneficial in the tackle football program. We are starting early sign-ups for kids that want to play tackle football. There will be workouts and practices they can attend this summer. The coaches have requested a sled for practice.

The flag football program will continue, it is a very important to the rec program. This is offered K-4th grade and is very popular, with talks of possible spring league for 2nd and up

with a possible girls' team. There is enough players who signed up for both programs. Michael is meeting the group for more details on the program. Michael will keep the board updated on this matter.

Playground

Michael handed the board a rendering of the new playground that will replace the old pirate ship playground by the pound in Brittlebank park. This is a bigger playground to fill the space with the black rubber flooring instead of the mulch. This will cost \$13,900 and \$8,000 of that purchase will be from a grant Michael received for the purchase of a playground. Michael has the rest of the funds budgeted in the budget lines. Michael will keep the board updated on this matter.

Fitness Court/Pickleball

The Fitness Court Grand Opening is still in the works. Micheal is reaching out to someone who did a class at the court to collaborate on an event for the space.

No word on the Pickleball Courts that's being built at Hageman.

There was an issue of vandalism at Avery's Place. Didn't do a lot of damage but broke into the restrooms and created a mess. This isn't the first incident of vandalism with the restrooms at Avery's Place. All of this was on camera and the perpetrators were found. Unsure of prosecution on the incident but they will pay restitution. Our city police have been making the rounds out to the park checking on things during their shifts.

Michael will keep the board updated on these matters.

The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for May 18th, 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 Willy Clark. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

MICHAEL HARSHBARGER _____

SARAH BROWN-SPURGEON _____