

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

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

Recommended Actions

- 1. SIGN CLAIMS-** The motion to authorize claims was made by Bob Stemple and seconded by Willie Clark. Motion Carried.
- 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING-** The motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Willie Clark and seconded by Jessica Zirkelbach. Motion carried.
- 3. BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS-** The motion to approve the balance of accounts to be entered into the minutes subject for the audit for April was made by Bob Stemple seconded by Willie Clark. Motion carried.

UPDATES:

Youth Soccer

Youth Soccer season with the rain has been brutal with rescheduling games. They're running out of days to reschedule Junior Kickers. The 4th through 6th grade teams is done with their season. It went well. This season they had an experienced volunteer that was a lot of help with the season. Overall, the season went well. They had enough coaches so Michael and Dilean didn't have to fill in.

Fitness Court Event

Dustin Boyer is helping with the Fitness Court Grand Opening Event at Brittlebank Park. He will be doing a demonstration on Thursday May 21st at 4 pm with a class he's put together on the new court. Weather should cooperate for the event.

New Riverfront Electronic Sign

A new electronic sign has been put in to replace the old LED sign. This is a \$3,000 outdoor tv with an enclosing around it. This tv has a program that is easier to upload information on the sign. The previous program was complicated. This new program Michael can upload from his phone.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hafer/Pool

The updated pool design from Hafer has more detail into the outbuildings, entrance and lockers. This design was updated with discussion at the Hafer meeting with the committee. Here is a pipeline underneath the pool that belongs to Country Mark and Michael is hoping that since the easement is with Country Mark they will work with us on it. A big chunk of trees on the property will stay with the new design. Everything that has been discussed at the meetings has been put into the updated design. Carly mentioned to Micheal that a secure area be put into the plans for the bank deposit banks for the pool. This could be at the pool office or incorporated into the new Hageman building. The board members would like Micheal to look into a water bottle refilling station. An issue with the design was brought up that the Janitor closets only access was in the men's restroom. This design is based on the 500-limit capacity. The showers are double entry with areas to just change separate from the shower stalls. There is a shared document with Hafer that the committee is able to put the ideas they have for the new design. Along with Hafer they have a contract with a company that has experience building other pools. Michael will keep the board updated on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Financial Team Meeting

Michael has been in contact with the financial team that will be working with us on the pool project. This is with Baker, Tilly, and Boose. We will need corporate sponsors and help with grants. So, it will be good to have the help of this team. Michael will also be reaching out the county to help with funding.

An invoice was sent from Hafer for \$42,525.00. Michael wasn't expecting this amount. But this bill will be paid out of the improvements line. Michael is going to follow up with Hafer about the amounts to be expected on future invoices. This invoice also gives us a breakdown of cost, so we have an idea.

Grants were discussed. The mayor suggested Michael look for engineering and construction grants to help with this. Also, country mark and tiff grants need to be looked into.

Market Nights

Market Nights at the riverfront will continue this summer. Rachel Rainey has been running it in the past but can't currently. Michael has taken over planning. There will be music and food booths. Along with merchandise to be sold by vendors. This was posted on Facebook, and it got a lot of interest. The food trucks will need permits. Music is almost booked for

every night. Jaycee Jarvis, Damien Jackson and possibly Elijah Gray will be joining us. There was outreach for vendor booths with multiple sourdough booths. This event will be on Mondays in June and July. There is a google spreadsheet link on Facebook for food booths and vendors to sign up on. Michel will be going to the next board of works meeting to ask for permission to close water street for this event.

Michael is also looking to collab with organizations to put on movie nights at the riverfront in June and July. It costs \$500 to \$600 to license a movie and the company is out of Indy. The board agrees that it might be worth the cost to invest in our own equipment for movie nights. 3 to 4 movies are to be scheduled. Michael will keep everyone updated on this matter.

Hageman Update

The weather has been holding up the Hageman Project. The first week of June they will be starting on the building for the boys and girls club and then work their way east. The mayor encouraged the board to go out and look at the sight. The completion date is still the same, June of next year. They removed the concrete from the Kwanzaa hut and the parking lot by the pickleball courts was put in. the skate park project will start this summer.

New Sherburne Park plans are in the works. The pavilion will stay. But it will have work done to it. These plans are part of a 30-year project, talk of a possible Portland loo like the one put in downtown Evansville. There is also a project in the works for the property next to Buds Hardware. This will be a space for advertising and displaying the flag. There is a site in Holland Michigan that is inspiration for this project. The picture is of statues around the flagpole. Looking at July 4th weekend for the opening of that space. It was also discussed that a mural would be nice on the side of the bud's hardware building.

Willie Clark updated the board on the walking path out at Hageman. The issues brought up in the past have yet to be resolved. It's better but not fixed.

No more issues with vandalism in Avery's Place. An amount was sent for restitution on the vandalism. All the cameras are up and working. Michael will keep everyone updated on this matter.

The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 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 Willie Clark. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

MICHAEL HARSHBARGER _____

SARAH BROWN-SPURGEON _____