

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

The Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Board held its monthly meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday July 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, Parks Director Michael Harshbarger, and Administrative Assistant Carly Carter. Unable to attend this month's meeting is Adam Brothers and Bob Stemple.

Recommended Actions

1. **SIGN CLAIMS-** The motion to authorize claims was made by Willie Clark and seconded by Jessica Zirkelbach. Motion Carried.

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING-** The motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting with an edit to the Hageman/Brittlebank section 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 June was made by Jessica Zirkelbach seconded by Willie Clark. Motion carried.

Updates:

1. Fall Sports

Fall Sports online sign-ups started this past week. Registration forms have been sent to the school for approval. We will get all the registrations forms printed and sent to the schools so the forms can go out to the parents first week of school.

2. Market Nights

Market Nights at the Riverfront have been going well. It's been hot and Dilean is currently out there running it tonight. All feedback has been positive.

In the fall the plan is to schedule movie nights at the Riverfront with sponsors and food trucks.

Old Business:

1. Hafer/Pool

At the last meeting with Hafer on the Brittlebank Pool project there were additional details of the design of the pool discussed. Michael was also given a 3D Model of the current design. Michael will keep the board updated on this as it progresses.

2. County Meeting

Michael has been speaking with Heather Allyn about the possibility of the county helping with funding on the projects with Hageman/Brittlebank park. County Council meets twice a month and Michael will be attending. Both parties are interested in a partnership. Michael will keep the board updated on this matter.

New Business:

1. Black Township Meeting

Michael talked to Black Township Trustee, Jessica Wright about funding for the Hageman/Brittlebank project. These two park projects are in the center of both the city and county and will benefit everyone. Board member Jessica Zirkelbach told the board about conversations with the public about the current location of the pool and if it was possible to move the location of the pool to another area.

2. Financial Team Letter

Letter of agreement to work with Baker Tilly has been given to the park board to look over. Attorney Beth Higgins is here to go over the agreement and answer questions that the board might have about the agreement with the company. They are going to work with the department to help find pool project funding. This agreement is sectioned into scopes A-C, with the details of the services offered within each scope. Scope A is general services; they will go over the financial analysis of the area and ways to finance the project under Indiana Law. They will find out what the tax rate would be and if we bond the project how we would pay for the bonds. Scope A is the evaluation of everything and the cost of the evaluation with Bakertilly. \$35,000 is a standard rate. The city is currently working with Bakertilly on other projects, so Attorney Higgins is familiar with the process of working with Bakertilly.

3. Additional Appropriations

Additional Appropriations need to be posted and approved by the additional appropriations ordinance. Then it would go to the City Council for one reading resolution to be approved. There must be money in the bank to request additional appropriation. Another line will need to be created to hold money for the current projects happening. This line will be named Contractual Services to pay invoices involved with Hageman and Brittlebank pool. Michael will speak with Cristi the City Clerk to ask where we can move the money to pay for Hafer and the invoice for the new parks and rec truck that was purchased until we can get that line created. You can move money to different lines but it's very specific.

A motion to approve the financial agreement letter with Bakertilly subject to appropriation approval was made by Jessica Zirkelbach and seconded by Willie Clark. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the additional appropriations to pay invoices for Bakertilly and the vehicle purchase was made by Jessica Zirkelbach and seconded by Willie Clark. Motion carried.

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

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

Meeting adjourned.

MICHAEL HARSHBARGER _____

SARAH BROWN-SPURGEON _____

Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Department Current Board Member Roster

Sarah Spurgeon (President) – Mayor Appointee

Willie Clark – Mayor Appointee

Jessica Zirkelbach – Mayor Appointee

Bob Stemple – Mayor Appointee

Adam Brothers – Circuit Judge Appointee