



A G E N D A
CITY OF WAUPUN BOARD OF PARK & RECREATION
Waupun Senior Center- 301 E. Main Street,
Waupun WI
Monday, October 27, 2025 at 5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE RECREATION BOARD--*State name, address, and subject of comments. (2 Minutes)*

No Public Participation after this point.

CONSIDERATION - ACTION

1. Nomination and Appointment of Secretary
- [2.](#) Approve June 23, 2025 Minutes
- [3.](#) 2025 Youth Recreation and Sport Grant Application Submission

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Community Center Updates – Activities, Services, Events, Rentals

FUTURE MEETINGS

5. Monday, November 24, 2025 at 5:30pm at Waupun Community Center

ADJOURNMENT

Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at 920-324-7915.



A G E N D A
CITY OF WAUPUN BOARD OF PARK & RECREATION
Waupun Community Center - 520 McKinley Street,
Waupun, WI 53963
Monday, June 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Lexi Zarn, Ryan Mielke, Megan Williams, Karissa Smits, Rachel Kaminski, Kathy Schlieve

Absent and excused: Bridget Winterhack, Wanda Nick, Nicole VanBuren

Public Present: Jeff Bruins

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE RECREATION BOARD--*State name, address, and subject of comments. (2 Minutes)*
No Public Participation after this point.

CONSIDERATION - ACTION

1. Recognition of Mayoral Appointments
 - a. Thank you to Doug Disch, Mary Kay Gorst, Kambria Ledesma
 - b. Joining the Board of Park and Recreation Commission - Ryan Mielke, Karissa Smit, Nicole VanBuren
2. Nomination and Appointment of Board Chairperson
 - a. Megan Williams (Motion Miele / Second Zarn) - Carried Unanimously
3. Nomination and Appointment of Vice Chair
 - a. Lexi Zarn (Motion Williams/ Seconded Smits) - Carried Unanimously
4. Nomination and Appointment of Secretary
 - a. Table until next meeting
5. Future Meetings Date, Time, Location
 - a. 4th Monday at 5:30pm, Maintain this at the Waupun Community Center
6. Approve January 27, 2025 Minutes
 - a. Motion Zarn / Seconded Williams - Carried unanimously
7. Approve March 31, 2025 Minutes
 - a. Motion Zarn / Seconded Williams - Carried unanimously
8. Community Center Updates to Policies & Procedures
 - a. Adjust fee schedule as discussed
 - b. Motion Zarn / Seconded Williams - Carried unanimously
9. 2025 Youth Sport Grant Application Submission
 - a. Motion Williams, second Mielke to provide grant of \$5,000 to Waupun Softball Association for the purchase of a tractor to support field maintenance. Carried unanimously.
10. Community Center Marquee Sign
 - a. Review with building inspector for sign brightness/display and vision triangle

DISCUSSION

1. Wilcox Park Playground Equipment
 - b. Look at all inclusive as well as alternative playground equipment for Wilcox vs. Buwalda. Bring more information to a future meeting
2. Recreation Updates
 - a. Kaminski provided updates from Recreation Department

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Mielke, Smits seconded to adjourn. Carried unanimously. Adjournment at 6:52 pm.

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CITY OF WAUPUN
YOUTH RECREATION AND SPORTS GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Waupun invests heavily in youth sports and recreation assets to foster a strong quality of life for residents. The City partners with nonprofit youth sports organizations to provide recreation programming for area youth by providing access to facilities, and permits ongoing fundraising activities with profits directly benefiting these groups. The various nonprofit athletic groups have identified capital and equipment improvements at facilities needed to maintain and to expand programming. It is the City's desire to continue to invest in and support the needs of these groups to strengthen quality of life for resident. As such, the City is allocating \$37,500 to create a Youth Sports Grant Program in each of the next two years (2024-2025). This is a reimbursement-based grant with a maximum award of \$5,000. Dependent on the number and quality of applications, the council may elect to reduce the total grant award to support more community organizations. A minimum of a 50% fund match must be demonstrated by the requesting organization. The City of Waupun will utilize the Common Council Committee of the Whole (COW) to review and award grants within this program. Organizations receiving funds will be required to sign award agreements and verify use of funds prior to receiving payment. Preference will be given to organizations who demonstrate financial need and to organizations that have not received support in the form of other city grant awards between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Projects outlined in approved grants must be complete by December 31, 2026, with all invoices and reporting data submitted no later than March 31, 2027.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Youth Recreation and Sports Grant Program is to work collaboratively with youth recreation and sports nonprofit organizations to support capital improvement and equipment needs used to operate programs within the City of Waupun.

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS:

Organizations must be a non-profit organizations operating as a 501c3 within the City of Waupun that provides access to youth sports and recreation programming for all area youth, regardless of skill or ability. Funds will not be allocated to groups that restrict access to programming (i.e., competitive / travel teams where youth must try out for a select number of positions based on skill or ability.)

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES:

Funds must be used for capital and equipment purchases that support program delivery. Funded organization must demonstrate ability to finance the balance of the proposed project not funded through a grant award. Financial, performance and compliance reporting will be required.

APPLICATION NARRATIVE:

1. Name and address of your organization and contact information (name, phone and email) for two representatives authorized to submit application for the youth recreation and sports grant.
2. Describe the proposed capital improvement project or equipment purchase that you are seeking to complete if your request is funded.

3. Describe the need for your project. Explain what will happen if your request is not funded.
4. Describe measurable impacts your program has achieved to date, including information relative to whom your program serves, including total number of youth served, of that group number of youth served who live within the City of Waupun, demographics of families served, economic impact to the City, etc.
5. Provide information on the project budget, including funds already collected or committed to the proposed project and plans to address any gaps in financing through fundraising or other methods.
6. What are the expected long-term costs to maintain your proposed project? Describe your plan to support long-term maintenance of proposed improvements. If you are relying on city funding to support this need, be specific in terms of your request for support beyond a possible grant award.
7. Describe the timeline for your proposed project, including projected start dates, construction timelines, and completion deadlines.
8. If your grant request is not fully funded, describe adjustments you are prepared to make to the proposed project to address the need. What implications will those adjustments have to your program?

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Attach the following as documentation in support of your application:

- Completed application including budget documents signed by an authorized member of your nonprofit.
- A copy of your organization's income statement for period ending December 31, 2023.
- Budget and cost estimates for your proposed project.
- Evidence of ability to fund the non-grant funded portion of the proposed project and/or a plan to finance the portion of your project requiring private funding.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Submit completed applications via email to angie@cityofwaupun.org or by hand delivery to the attention of the Clerk at City Hall, 201 E Main St, Waupun, WI 53963.

DEADLINE:

First round of applications are due by 11 a.m. on February 16, 2024. First round of review of applications will occur by February 29, 2024. Applications accepted on a rolling basis thereafter until all annual program funds are awarded by the Waupun Common Council Committee of the Whole.

Youth Recreation and Sports Grant Proposal:
Financial Support for the Community Campaign
“Catching the Wind: Honoring Clarence Shaler’s Legacy”

Waupun City of Sculpture

DBA Create Waupun

PO Box 3

Waupun, WI 53963

waupuncityofsculpture@gmail.com

Mission

Waupun City of Sculpture’s purpose is to promote the recognition of Waupun as a cultural community through obtaining sculptures and murals to be placed in public space for enjoyment and education of citizens and visitors.

Applicant: Waupun Sculpture Tour Committee

Project Title: Catching the Wind Community Campaign

Funding Request: \$5,000

Project Duration: Permanent Public Sculpture Installations

Municipality: Waupun



Youth Recreation and Sports Grant Application
Create Waupun and Waupun Sculpture Tour

1. Name and address of your organization and contact information (name, phone and email) for two representatives authorized to submit applications for the youth recreation and sports grant.

Jeni Maly
120 Carrington Street
Waupun, WI 53963
920-948-6921
malyjj07@gmail.com

Amy Mohr
101 Liberty St
Waupun, WI 53963
262-909-0061
amym@horiconbank.com

2. Describe the proposed capital improvement project or equipment purchase that you are seeking to complete if your request is funded.

The “Catching the Wind” Campaign is a 2026 Waupun Sculpture Tour project initiative dedicated to securing the *Catching the Wind* sculpture as a permanent part of the Waupun City of Sculpture Legacy Collection. Inspired by Waupun innovator Clarence Shaler’s kite experimentation, the piece symbolizes imagination, discovery, and the pursuit of progress. This community-driven campaign blends art and education, inviting residents, businesses, and visitors to contribute toward a shared cultural legacy through sponsorships, special events, and grassroots giving.

Alongside the fundraising effort, the campaign launches a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) educational program designed to inspire learners of all ages. Using the sculpture’s wind theme, programming will explore aerodynamics, wind power, sculpture design, and mathematical problem-solving. Activities include student kite-building and flight experiments, mini wind turbine challenges, sculpture design workshops, and outdoor wind observation journals. Lessons will connect art and science, linking to Clarence Shaler’s inventive spirit while fostering curiosity and hands-on learning.

Partnerships with local schools, REACH Waupun, the Waupun Community Center, and Marsh Haven Nature Center will bring programming into classrooms, public spaces, and outdoor environments. Public “STEAM Saturdays” will invite families to explore art and science together, while permanent educational signage at the sculpture site will provide year-round learning opportunities. Through this campaign, Waupun will not only secure an iconic work of public art but also create a lasting platform for creative, scientific, and community-based learning.

Project Summary

The Waupun Sculpture Tour committee seeks to launch a heartfelt community campaign to purchase and permanently install the bronze sculpture, "Catching the Wind" in honor of Clarence Shaler, a local inventor, artist, and visionary.

More than just a sculpture, *Catching the Wind* is a symbol of imagination, progress, and the joy of discovery which is deeply embodied in the Shaler’s life and work. This campaign invites Waupun Community to celebrate his inventive spirit and ensures his story continues to inspire future generations

Clarence Shaler: The Man Behind the Legacy

Born in Waupun, Clarence Shaler was a self-taught inventor, entrepreneur, and sculptor. His contributions range from early patents for street lighting and rubber technologies to a deep passion for the arts. One of his most charming inventions involved kites which he tested right here in Waupun. Shaler believes in the power of wind, light, and motion and *Catching the Wind* represents that spirit beautifully.

About the Sculpture

Title: *Catching the Wind*

Artist: Gregory Johnson

Medium: Bronze

Description: A graceful figure launching a kite into the wind, frozen in a moment of wonder and motion. The piece captures the spirit of experimentation and childlike joy and is a homage to flight, invention, and hope.

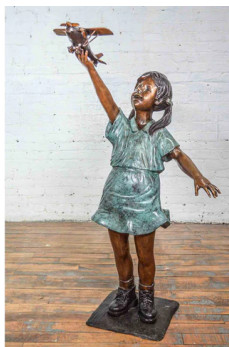
About the Artist: Gregory Johnson

Catching the Wind is the creation of Gregory Johnson, a distinguished American sculptor renowned for his mastery in both traditional and contemporary styles. Born on January 30, 1955 in Chicago, Illinois, Johnson's artistic journey began with early training at the Art Institute of Chicago, followed by mentorships with several world-class artists. Throughout his illustrious career spanning over four decades, Johnson has produced works in various mediums that capture the elements and strengths of nature. His piece, *Catching the Wind*, embodies the spirit of imagination and discovery, making it a fitting tribute to Clarence Shaler's legacy of invention and creativity.

The sculpture depicts a joyful moment of discovery—a young person flying a kite, eyes lifted skyward—symbolizing the spirit of curiosity, invention, and imagination that defined Shaler's legacy. As a child, Shaler built and tested his own kite designs, a passion that would later translate into numerous mechanical inventions and business success. By installing this sculpture in Waupun's public spaces, the campaign seeks to both honor Shaler's contributions and inspire future generations to explore their own creative potential. Upon attributions of *Catching the Wind*, we are also seeking four additional sculptures (*Pilot's Dream*, *Sun Showers*, *Butterfly Dreams*, *Fly Away Friend*) from the Randolph Rose Collection featuring complementary connections with Clarence Shaler and flight.



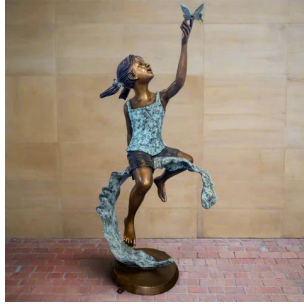
Pilot's Dream to accompany We Can Do It with tribute to WWII Veterans



Fly Away Friend-Plane to also accompany We Can Do It to inspire young Rosie the Riveters in our modern community.



Sun Showers to honor Shaler's inventions of umbrella coverings and business while giving tribute to Shaler's twin sister.



Butterfly Dream to raise awareness and education of Marsh Haven and the Horicon Marsh.

Through this campaign, we invite individuals, families, businesses, and community partners to help us “catch the wind” by supporting the permanent placement of this sculpture. In doing so, we not only enrich the cultural landscape of Waupun but also continue telling stories of local pioneers who shaped our community through vision, ingenuity, and a belief in the power of imagination.

By expanding our rotating collection and making strategic permanent acquisitions, we will:

- Strengthen Waupun’s identity as a public art destination, increasing cultural tourism and economic impact.
- Engage the community through historical and artistic storytelling, ensuring sculptures reflect local heritage and values.
- Foster artist collaborations and regional partnerships, supporting the creative economy and bringing high-quality sculptures to Waupun.
- Enhance educational and outreach opportunities, encouraging residents and visitors to explore and interact with public art.

To support this vision, we seek funding for a \$5,000 towards the Catching the Wind Community Campaign featuring a sculpture with a strong connection to Waupun’s history and heritage to expand our impact further and to help to bring another high-quality sculpture to the Waupun Sculpture Tour. Your support will directly contribute to expanding Waupun’s artistic landscape, fostering appreciation for public art, and celebrating the city’s rich cultural community.

With sculpture expansion, the Waupun Sculpture Tour will continue to grow as a premier cultural attraction, enriching the community while preserving and celebrating its artistic and historical legacy.

3. Describe the need for your project. Explain what will happen if your request is not funded.

This project meets a growing community need for public art that inspires identity, tourism, and youth engagement. Waupun has built a reputation as “The City of Sculpture” and sustaining this vision requires new sculpture installations that engage residents and visitors alike. The sculpture will also support education through STEAM learning opportunities, connecting art, engineering, and environmental science for local students. The community campaign unites local industry, schools, artists, and volunteers under a shared goal: to honor Waupun’s past and invest in its creative future.

If the \$5,000 funding request is not fulfilled, the *Catching the Wind* campaign will experience setbacks in both production and public engagement. Specifically:

- **Project Delay:** Without this funding, public sculpture installation will be postponed, delayed, or eliminated and public unveiling will be cancelled.
- **Loss of Matching Funds:** The campaign relies on momentum and matching sponsorships from local businesses and donors. Missing this contribution may result in lost partnerships.
- **Reduced Educational and Community Impact:** The campaign includes outreach materials, signage, and educational programming linking Waupun students to Shaler’s legacy through STEAM lessons. Without adequate funding, these elements may need to be reduced or eliminated.
- **Community Morale and Visibility:** Public art projects serve as visible signs of progress and unity. A delay or incomplete project risks diminishing community pride and weakening engagement in future arts initiatives.

In summary, without the \$5,000 contribution, *Catching the Wind* risks losing crucial momentum toward its 2026 completion goal—limiting Waupun’s continued growth as a vibrant destination for art, innovation, and cultural identity.

4. Describe measurable impacts your program has achieved to date, including information relative to whom your program serves, including total number of youth served, of that group number of youth served who live within the City of Waupun, demographics of families served, economic impact to the City, etc.

Since its inception, the Waupun Sculpture Tour under the leadership of the *Waupun City of Sculpture 501(c)(3)* has expanded access to public art, education, and tourism throughout the city. To date, the tour features 12 sculptures, including both rotating and permanent works, displayed across parks, downtown corridors, and public spaces.

The tour engages an estimated 1,000–3,000 visitors annually, including community residents and tourists from across the region. Educational programming will be introduced in the community through school partnerships, field trips, and art education activities connected to the sculpture tour and related public art initiatives. Of those youth, most students reside within the City of Waupun and attend local schools in the Waupun Area School District.

Youth and Family Demographics

The *Catching the Wind* Community Campaign will have a lasting impact on Waupun's youth and families by creating opportunities for intergenerational learning, civic pride, and creative engagement. Through its kinetic design inspired by movement, innovation, and imagination, the sculpture will become a visual anchor for family-centered activities, school field trips, and community events that encourage curiosity and discovery. Local youth will connect with Waupun's history of invention and industry while exploring modern applications of art, engineering, and environmental science through related STEAM-based lessons and workshops. Families will experience the sculpture as a symbol of hope, collaboration, and community identity inviting them to participate in fundraising, installation celebrations, and public art tours. Ultimately, *Catching the Wind* strengthens family connections and inspires young people to see themselves as future creators and innovators shaping Waupun's story.

Economic and Cultural Impact

The Waupun Sculpture Tour has contributed significantly to local tourism and economic development. Through partnerships with the Envision Fond Du Lac, Destination Lake Winnebago Region, and local businesses, the sculpture tour attracts visitors who support restaurants, retail shops, and lodging within the city.

Educational and Cultural Outcomes

Through future classroom connections and field learning opportunities, students will engage in lessons exploring art, science, history, and invention inspired by Clarence Shaler's story and the sculpture's symbolism. This initiative strengthens Waupun's identity as the City of Sculpture, reinforced youth pride in local heritage, and fostered intergenerational dialogue through art and storytelling.

5. Provide information on the project budget, including funds already collected or committed to the proposed project and plans to address any gaps in financing through fundraising or other methods.

Project Budget and Funding Plan

The *Catching the Wind* Community Campaign has an estimated total project cost of \$56,700, which includes artist design and fabrication, engineering, materials, installation, site preparation, educational signage, and community engagement programming. To date, \$12,000 has been collected or committed through private donations, local business sponsorships, and in-kind support from sponsorships. To close the remaining funding gap, Waupun City of Sculpture is pursuing a multi-tiered fundraising strategy that includes grant requests to regional arts and tourism foundations, a local donor drive, and business sponsorship packages. Through this combination of community-based fundraising, corporate partnerships, and grant support, Waupun City of Sculpture is confident that the remaining funds will be secured to ensure the successful completion and installation of *Catching the Wind* by 2026.

Catching the Wind Community Campaign – Project Budget Expenses

1. **Permanent Sculpture Acquisitions** (5 sculptures) – \$49,700
 - ***Catching the Wind***-\$15,500
 - Pilot's Dream-\$10,800
 - Fly Away Friend-\$6,800
 - Sun Showers-\$9,800
 - Butterfly Dream-\$6,800
2. **Installation & Maintenance** – \$2,000
 - Site preparation, concrete pads, transportation, and maintenance
3. **Marketing & Promotion** – \$2,000
 - Signage, brochures, website updates, social media campaigns
4. **Community Engagement & Education** – \$2,000
 - Public programs, school partnerships, artist talks
5. **Administrative Costs** – \$1,000
 - Insurance, operational support, grant writing

Total Projected Expenses: \$56,700

Projected Funding Sources

1. **Sponsorships & Donations** – \$16,500
 - 5 Permanent Sculpture-Purchase
 - i. Waupun City of Sculpture-\$5,000
 - ii. Waupun Fine Arts-\$3,000
 - iii. Destination Lake Winnebago-\$1,000
 - iv. BD Area Foundation-\$2,500
 - v. City of Waupun-\$3,000
 - Local business and individual contributions – \$2,000
2. **Grants & Public Funding** – \$66,000
 - Waupun Park & Recreation-\$5,000

- Wisconsin Arts Board-Creative Communities Grant – \$6,000
- T-Mobile Community Grant – \$50,000
- Alliant Energy Community Grant-\$10,000
- 3. **City & Tourism Support – \$2,000**
 - Contributions from local government and tourism initiatives for brochure

Through these combined efforts, the project will be fully funded for installation by Summer 2026.

6. What are the expected long-term costs to maintain your proposed project? Describe your plan to support long-term maintenance of proposed improvements. If you are relying on city funding to support this need, be specific in terms of your request for support beyond a possible grant award.

Long-Term Maintenance and Sustainability Plan

The *Catching the Wind* sculpture is designed with durable bronze and stainless-steel materials engineered to withstand Wisconsin's year-round climate conditions, minimizing the need for intensive maintenance. The expected annual maintenance cost is approximately \$500 per year, covering cleaning and minor repairs with a major conservation inspection scheduled every five-ten years.

To ensure sustainability, Waupun City of Sculpture has established a dedicated Sculpture Maintenance Fund, supported through annual fundraising events, sponsorship renewals, and a portion of proceeds from merchandise and tour donations. The City of Waupun has also historically provided in-kind support for site upkeep, such as landscaping, snow removal, and lighting maintenance at sculpture locations. The organization will continue to collaborate with the City to ensure public works staff assist with safe access during inspections and routine upkeep.

If awarded a grant, Waupun City of Sculpture respectfully requests the City's continued partnership through annual site maintenance support estimated at \$500 per year in labor or equipment use to supplement nonprofit stewardship. This shared approach ensures that *Catching the Wind* remains a safe, visually striking, and educational feature in Waupun's Sculpture Tour for decades to come, reinforcing the city's identity as a destination for art, innovation, and community pride.

7. Describe the timeline for your proposed project, including projected start dates, construction timelines, and completion deadlines.

Project Timeline – Catching the Wind Community Campaign

The *Catching the Wind* Community Campaign follows a structured, multi-phase timeline designed to ensure successful fundraising, fabrication, and installation by Summer 2026.

Phase	Activity	Projected Timeline	Description & Milestones
Phase 1: Community Campaign Launch	Public awareness, sponsorship drive, and fundraising events	June 2025	Launch of community giving campaign; local business and civic sponsor recruitment; grant submissions
Phase 2: Site Preparation & Installation	Site work and public installation	May – June 2026	Concrete base poured, sculpture transported and mounted with crane support.
Phase 3: Dedication & Community Celebration	Public unveiling and educational programming launch	July 2026	Community celebration event; educational signage and Otocast integration installed;
Phase 4: Maintenance &	Annual inspections, sculpture tour	Ongoing – 2026 and beyond	Integration into Waupun Sculpture Tour, STEAM

Legacy
Programming

inclusion, and
educational use

lesson plans
developed for local
schools, and
annual inspection
through Sculpture
Maintenance Fund.

Completion Goal

The *Catching the Wind* sculptures will be installed and dedicated by August 2026, aligning with Waupun City of Sculpture's 10-year vision for public art expansion and community engagement.

8. If your grant request is not fully funded, describe adjustments you are prepared to make to the proposed project to address the need. What implications will those adjustments have to your program?

Contingency Plan if Grant Request Is Not Fully Funded

If the *Catching the Wind* Community Campaign grant request is not fully funded, Waupun City of Sculpture is prepared to implement several adjustments to responsibly move the project forward while maintaining its artistic integrity and community impact. The scope of work would be phased or scaled to match available funds.

To maintain momentum, the organization would intensify fundraising efforts, such as local donor drives, business sponsorships, and benefit events, to close any remaining financial gaps. Despite these implications, Waupun City of Sculpture remains committed to realizing *Catching the Wind* as a symbol of creativity, innovation, and civic pride—ensuring that every dollar invested continues to uplift the Waupun community and its youth.