

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: 12/14/2023
FROM: Winnebago County Executive's Office
RE: Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Spirit Fund

General Description:

A \$500,000 grant for the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh.

Action Requested:

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh is requesting \$750,000 to help expand the youth-focused community center. The Commission is recommending \$500,000. With a total project cost of \$18,000,000.00 funded by grants from HUD, City of Oshkosh, and private donors, the new center will be accessible to families and organizations throughout Winnebago County.

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission Meeting date: 12/14/2023

Background:

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh serves youth ages 6 to 18 Monday through Friday after school and during the summer. The Club provides a safe environment, excellent facilities, caring adults and engaging programs in three key areas: healthy lifestyles, good character and citizenship, and academic success.

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh offers quality programs for children, taught by caring professional staff that have proven successful in thousands of Clubs nationwide, address today's most pressing youth issues and assist in teaching young people the skills they need to succeed in life. Boys & Girls Club leadership continually evaluate the needs of youth and the results of programs to improve and evolve with the changing times. Programs fall under the following categories: Education & Career Development, Arts, Health & Life Skills, Character and Leadership, Sports, Fitness & Recreation.

Expanding the Community Center with a youth-focused design, will provide the county with a centralized services center for all residents with economic and basic needs. Open to all to meet with community service providers and county departments expands the ability of the County to provide "wrap-around" services where community members need it most.

Timeline of the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh

1970 The Boys Club of Oshkosh was founded, and the headquarters officially opened at Main Street and Merritt Avenue.

1974 The Rockwell Foundation purchased the property at 502 N. Main and donated it to the Boys Club of Oshkosh. The Club became owners of its headquarters, which now is the Wagner Opera House.

1981 The Boys Club of Oshkosh Alumni Association was formed. It now raises about \$10,000 annually for the Club and Camp Radford. Members also log many hours of volunteer service.

1984 A permanent endowment fund was established with \$200,000.

1988 The Boys Club of Oshkosh began after-school programs in local elementary schools.

1989 Girls were officially welcomed in common membership, and the Club was renamed the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, Inc.

1992 - 1993 The "Campaign for Kids" raised \$1.7 million dollars to construct a new facility the Club moved to at Parkway Avenue and Broad Street.

1994 A new facility was constructed to house Head Start. Club members use the facility on non-school days, and 160 children in Head Start use the Club building on school days.

1997 Adjacent property was purchased and converted to a Teen Center and administrative offices.

2007 The "Opening the Doors" campaign raised \$2 million dollars for the new Teen Center, \$100,000 for the baseball field, and \$2.2 million dollars in pledges and cash for the endowment.

2007 The new Teen Center, "The CLUB," and administrative offices opened in April.

2016 The Club partnered with Catalpa Health to provide on-site mental health services to Club members and families.

2018 The Club underwent an interior remodel that included building safer more secure entrances, the addition of four new offices, and making updates to many of our program areas in the CLUB Teen Center and the Radford Center.

2020 The Club celebrates its 50th Anniversary!!

2021 The Club holds 50th celebration Block Party after Covid-19 shut-down and announces the expansion of its facilities and new community center.

2022 The Club breaks ground on its building expansion and new community center.

2023 The Club requests funding to continue to build a strong foundation for all children and families in Winnebago County.

Policy Discussion:

The commission has recognized Government Identified Community Projects that support or enhance county services:

- 1) The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh's programs complement work being done in the Winnebago County Health, Human Services, and Parks Departments, and these facilities are essential to deliver services safely.
- 2) The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh programs are an essential piece of the economic puzzle in Winnebago County. These funds requested help to ensure more families have access to after school care and childcare needed to live and work in Winnebago County and dedicating funds from the County demonstrates support for these important programs.

Attachments:

Resolution

Spirit Fund Application