THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: July 25, 2023

Subject: Dogwood Health Trust Grant for Affordable Housing Plan

Staff Resource(s): Sasha Vrtunski, Affordable Housing Officer
Nikki Reid, Community and Economic Development Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement with Dogwood Health Trust to accept $50,000 for the Affordable Housing Plan, and approval of a budget amendment in the Special Revenue Fund to budget the $146,517 to contract with the Affordable Housing Plan consultant.

Background:

- Dogwood Health Trust opened Applications for Affordable Housing proposals in Winter 2023.
- The City submitted a grant application for $50,000 to supplement $97,000 in budgeted City funding for the development of an Affordable Housing Plan.
- Dogwood Health Trust has awarded the City the full requested amount of $50,000.
- The Affordable Housing Plan will assess current needs and set affordable housing policy direction for the next 5-10 years.
- The plan will review the effectiveness of existing City policies and programs and identify gaps in the City's current affordable housing toolbox. Specific policies assessed will include:
    - Land Use Incentive Grant
    - Housing Trust Fund
    - Policies for Implementing Affordable Housing on City-Owned Land
- A new comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan will also provide a foundation and guidance on how best to allocate funds from a potential future affordable housing bond referendum.
- The Affordable Housing Plan will be informed by the work of the Housing and Community Development Committee, Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, Thrive Asheville, the Community Reparations Commission, and the Missing Middle Housing Study.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council Goal(s):

- Quality Affordable Housing
- An Equitable and Diverse Community
- A Well-Planned and Livable Community

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Provides additional funding for the Affordable Housing Plan contract which will allow for additional community engagement and technical assistance through the planning process and will result in a more robust plan document.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Requested action will accept grant funding from Dogwood Health Trust to be applied in Fiscal Year 2024.
- The grant is supplementing $96,517 from the City's operating budget allocated to the plan.

Suggested Motions:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Dogwood Health Trust to accept funding to support the Affordable Housing Plan; and the associated budget amendment in the Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $146,517 to budget a grant from Dogwood Health Trust in support of developing an Affordable Housing Plan.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget Ordinance

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DOGWOOD HEALTH TRUST TO ACCEPT FUNDING TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-11 and 160A-240.1 to acquire grants for use by the City or any department of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified Quality Affordable Housing as a key part of the 2036 Vision, and Equitable and Affordable Housing & Stability is an identified Strategic Priority in 2022-23; and

WHEREAS, Dogwood Health Trust has made grants available to local governments for affordable housing planning and programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has applied for and been awarded a grant of $50,000 for the creation of an Affordable Housing Plan;

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has set aside $96,517 for the plan and the Dogwood Health Trust grant will ensure a robust process and plan document that will guide affordable housing efforts in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Dogwood Health Trust to accept funding to support the development of an Affordable Housing Plan in the amount of $50,000.

Read, approved and adopted this the 25th day of July, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $147,000 for an affordable housing plan as follows:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Private Donations	$ 50,000
Transfer from General Fund	$ 96,517
Total Revenues	$ 146,517

Appropriations:

Contracted Services	$ 146,517

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 25th day of July, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney