THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: May 9,2023

Subject: Nature Center Gateway to the Southern Appalachians Project Design Contract

Staff Resource(s): Jade Dundas and Rebecca Cipriano

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a design contract with ADC Engineering, Inc. in the amount of $127,418.00, for the Nature Center Gateway project; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $13,000 (~10%).

Background:

- Phase I improvements for the Nature Center Gateway to the Southern Appalachians Project were completed in 2018 with the entry and visitor plaza center being relocated and included parking and drop off drive for a complete arrival experience.
- This phase of the project was kicked off in 2019 as the Nature Center Butterfly Garden Project.
- With additional funding from the Tourism Product Development Fund (TPDF), the Nature Center has been able to expand the scope of this project phase to include additional improvements such as a new 800 square foot gift shop.
- General scope items include the design of a new gift shop, barn updates and modifications, reconfiguration of the domestic farm animal exhibit, removal of the elephant care building, new open guest plaza/lawn, retaining wall work, and a butterfly exhibit including native plantings.
- A Request for Qualifications was published on January 19, 2023
- Responsive qualifications were received on February 15, 2023, from three teams:
    - ADC Engineering, Greenville, SC
    - Surface 678, PA Durham, NC
    - Szostak Design, Chapel Hill, NC
- Qualifications were reviewed and ranked by an internal team who determined that ADC Engineering, Inc. was the most qualified candidate.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Staff performed outreach to minority and women owned businesses through solicitation processes which include posting on the State's Interactive Purchasing System and requiring prime contractors to reach out to Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) service providers for subcontracted services.
- No MWBE firms submitted qualifications or letters of interest for this phase of the project. Further efforts will be made with the future construction phase.

Council Goal(s):

- Well planned and livable community. A thriving local economy.

Committee(s):

- None.

Pro(s):

- Increased attendance and increased revenues to help offset operating costs at the Nature Center.
- Increase programming for after hours events.
- Animal welfare will be improved with different ground surfaces and inclines.
- Continuing to fulfill the 2010 Nature Center master plan “Vision for the Future.”
- Additional educational opportunities.

Con(s):

- Existing facility and guest/animal impacts during construction.

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for this contract was previously budgeted and is available in the General Capital Projects Fund.

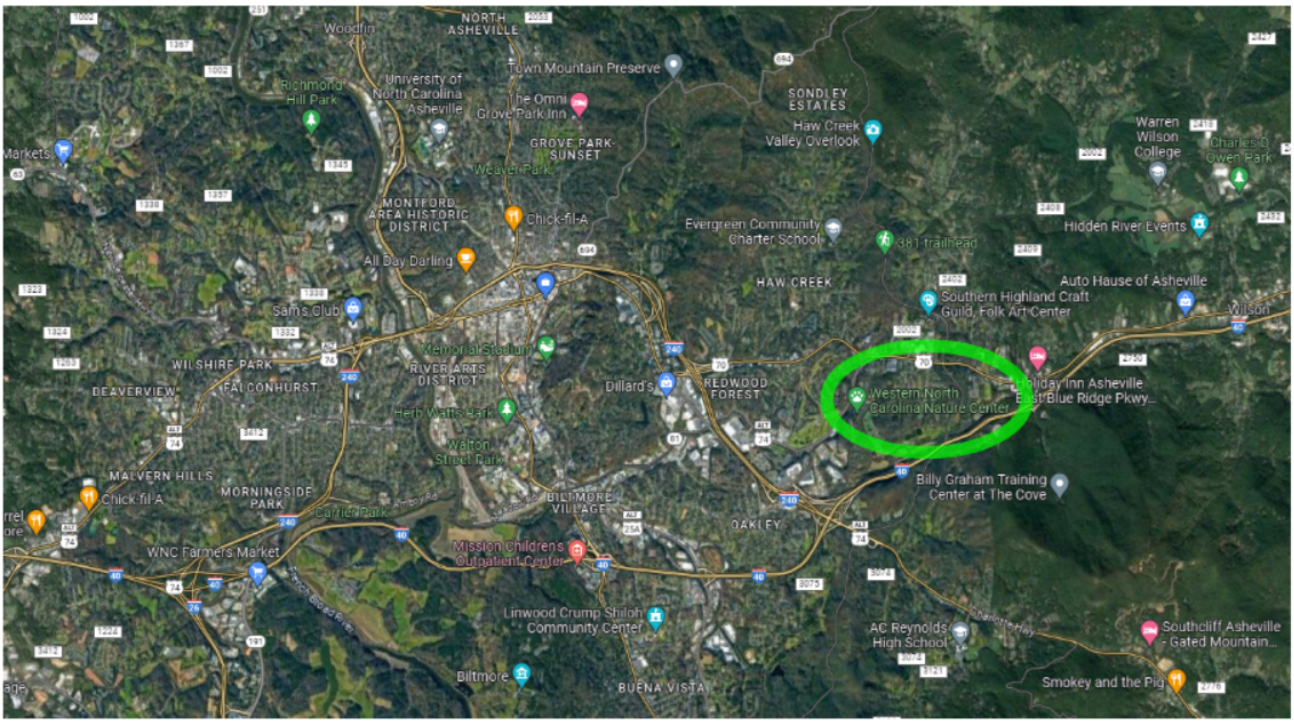
Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a design contract with ADC Engineering, Inc. in the amount of $127,418.00, for the Nature Center Gateway project; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $13,000.00 (~10%).

Attachment(s):

- Location Map
- Resolution

WNC Nature Center
75 Gashes Creek Road
Asheville, NC 28805



Location Map

RESOLUTION NO. 23-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADC ENGINEERING FOR THE NATURE CENTER GATEWAY TO SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes to enter into contracts for services with other entities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-64.31, ADC Engineering, Inc. was chosen through a qualifications based selection process as the most qualified to perform the design services for the Nature Center Gateway to the Southern Appalachians Project; and

WHEREAS, ADC Engineering of Greenville, SC was the most qualified team for the project and presented an acceptable scope of work and fee proposal for professional services associated with the project

WHEREAS, the amount of the fees are $127,418.00, and funding for the project is allocated within the Capital Improvement Program Fund;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a contract with ADC Engineering, Inc. in the amount of $127,418.00, for the design of the Nature Center Gateway to the Southern Appalachians Project; further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $13,000 (~10%).

Read, approved and adopted this the 9th day of May, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney