THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: August 23, 2022

Subject: Blue Horizons Project Implementation Contract

Staff Resource(s): Bridget Herring, Sustainability Director
Kiera Bulan, Sustainability Program Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an annual contract with the Green Built Alliance to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council.

Background:

- On January 28, 2020 City Council authorized Resolution 20-18 and created the Blue Horizons Community Council to achieve the community-wide renewable energy goal.
- On January 28, 2020 City Council approved Resolution 20-19 and authorized an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to issue a joint request for proposals (RFP) to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council for the next three years, depending on availability of funding.
- This will be the third year of the three-year period before reissuing an RFP for this work.
- The RFP was advertised by Buncombe County on May 6, 2020, and the County received responses on June 12, 2020.
- The County received one response from the Green Built Alliance.
- The City and County contracted with Green Built Alliance in fiscal year 2021 and 2022 to implement the Blue Horizons Project but are required to renew annually based on budget availability.
- This contract is for fiscal year 2023.
- The Blue Horizons Project will continue to engage our community to provide cost effective services, programs and products they value through investment in clean renewable ways to power Buncombe County and the City of Asheville to support the community-wide renewable energy goal and climate emergency resolution.
- In 2022 Green Built Alliance was awarded $250,000 from City of Asheville ARPA funds to support energy efficiency upgrades in low income housing.
- While the ARPA funded project supports the community-wide renewable energy goal and climate emergency resolution, it will be administered through a separate contract.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The Business Inclusion Manager conducted outreach through social media, community and business partners. City and County staff also conducted an optional virtual Q&A meeting.
- No MWBE firms submitted bids.

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- The Green Built Alliance has been managing and implementing the Blue Horizons Project for the past four years therefore there will be continuity with the continued program management.

- Buncombe County is providing $100,000 for the implementation of the Blue Horizons Project in partnership with the City of Asheville.

Con(s):
- None

Fiscal Impact:
- The contract will total $100,000 from the FY23 Office of Sustainability budget.
- Funding is already budgeted and available.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with the Green Built Alliance to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH GREEN BUILT ALLIANCE TO IMPLEMENT AND MANAGE THE BLUE HORIZONS PROJECT AND BLUE HORIZONS PROJECT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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, the Blue Horizons Project will engage our community to provide cost effective services, programs, and new products they value through investment in clean renewable ways to power Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, City residents and businesses will have a greater ability to participate in the Blue Horizons Project through the Blue Horizons Project Community Council and seize the opportunity to use renewable energy and participate in energy efficiency and demand side management programs to increase the City's resilience; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020 through Resolution 20-18 City Council dissolved the joint City-County Energy Innovation Task Force and replaced it with the Blue Horizons Project Community Council which will be implemented and managed by a local non-profit to be select by an RFP process; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020 through Resolution 20-19 City Council authorized an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to issue a joint request for proposals ("RFP") for a local non-profit organization to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council; and

WHEREAS, the RFP was advertised by Buncombe County on May 6, 2020 and only one response was received, the one from Green Built Alliance; and

WHEREAS, the City and County contracted with Green Built Alliance in fiscal year 2021 and 2022 to implement the Blue Horizons Project but are required to renew annually based on budget availability;

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 the Green Built Alliance in the amount of $100,000 for fiscal year 2023 to continue to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council.

Read, approved and adopted this the 23th day of August, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney