



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 07/11/2023

REQUESTER: Lisa D. Krieg, CDBG Grants Manager

PRESENTER: Jane Hudson, Director of Planning and Community Development

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2324-11: A CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FOR THE NORMAN NEIGHBORS ACTIVITIES.

BACKGROUND:

In the summer of 2020 Mayor Breea Clark assembled the Mayor's Task Force of over 50 individuals representing the population of Norman to explore various subjects as a result of comments that were received during the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FYE 2021) Budget Process. This group met multiple times over a six-month period and heard presentations from selected entities on a wide range of subjects regarding opportunities that the City of Norman had to improve interactions with the public.

As a result of this effort, Contract K-2122-17 with Neighborhood Alliance, Inc. was approved on July 13, 2021 to launch the Norman Neighbors Project. In FYE 23 a subsequent contract K-2223-24 was approved. Completed activities included several workshops specific to Norman including Maintaining Private Roads and Waterways; Norman Streetwise; Legal Issues for Homeowner's Associations (HOA); How to be a better Voluntary Neighborhood Leader; and How to be a better HOA Leader. To determine the focus of what the citizens of Norman were interested in, Neighborhood Alliance held two focus groups which included a wide range of citizens and interests. The result of these focus groups suggested that, unlike in Oklahoma City where the consensus is that citizens want to focus on individual neighborhoods, in Norman the interest is that the citizens want to discuss and learn better how to address citywide neighborhood issues. From the suggestions of those focus groups the workshops were developed and executed. In the upcoming year, the workshops will be repeated and expanded.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed contract represents a total of \$100,000 for activities described within the contract. The Norman Neighbors Program continues a re-visioning initiative in Norman and is tasked with finding the right people, with the right skills to ultimately create a safer and more nurturing City for all; one that, among other things, could lessen unwarranted police interaction as neighborhood issues are addressed in effective ways. Included with Contract K-2324-11 are the opportunities and strategies that Neighborhood Alliance will utilize with this contract.

Included in this contract, the Norman "Streetwise" program will be conducted over two sessions. One session will highlight programs of the City's development departments (Planning, Utilities, Public Works,

and Parks). The second session will highlight programs of the City's public safety departments (Police, Fire, Municipal Court, City Clerk, and City Attorney). These two sessions will be an opportunity for citizens to interact face to face with City Staff in a round table format.

A new program will be the Norman Neighbors Academy which will be a full day of training for residents of Norman on the importance and benefits of neighborhood organization, including effective methods of communicating with governmental entities regarding neighborhood issues.

The proposal includes employment of a dedicated staff person by Neighborhood Alliance who will be primarily responsible for the Norman activities, but will have the resources of the entire Neighborhood Alliance staff and Board of Directors at their disposal for support.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff has reviewed the proposed contract and recommends approval of Contract K-2324-11 in the amount of \$100,000 to Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma, Inc. Funds are available in the General Fund, City Council, Other Business Services (account 10110101 44199).