

MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

October 11, 2023

Martin Park Pool and Terry Pool Mural Bid Waiver

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Minority Leader John Morrison, Councillors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Travis Simpson and Harry Amadasun, Jr.

ABSENT Councillor Tom Rup

ALSO Connor Martin, Chief of Staff

PRESENT Matt Conway, Executive Director, RiseUp Group, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to hear public comment, discuss and possibly vote to authorize a bid waiver in the amount of \$19,500 to contract with RiseUp Group, LLC for the creation of murals at Martin Park Pool House and Terry Pool House which are to be funded by the Town's ARPA art fund.

Bid Waiver for Martin Park Pool and Terry Pool Murals

Chief of Staff Martin shared the Town's initiative to have murals created on all of East Hartford's public pool houses, with RiseUp recently completing projects on a number of them. Two pools remain without artwork: Martin Park Pool, located at 307 Burnside Avenue and Terry Pool, located within Hockanum Park at 380 High Street.

The bid waiver is to fund two murals located along the front the Terry Pool building (\$12,000) and one along the side of the Martin Pool building (\$7,500), with plans for an additional mural along the front of the building to be contracted at a later date.

The language of the contract that is up for approval is virtually identical to that of two contracts approved by the Council for previously completed works of art. .

Matt Conway, Executive Director for RiseUp Group, LLC provided the Council with a review of his organization's completed work throughout East Hartford, including a bus shelter located along Forbes Street, the Drennan Pool House located at McAuliffe Park, and the Goldstar Pool House. A K-9 mural to be located at Foran Park and a project at Lord Pool House have also been approved with artwork still in the concept phase.

Mr. Conway estimates that the paint to be used on the projects has a lifespan of roughly 10-20 years, and the contracts with town include a 5-year maintenance plan for upkeep of the murals.

The Martin Park project will be led by Julie Bergeron, a resident of Windsor with assistance of local residents at a planned Community Paint Day for October 21st with

completed installation of the project in early November. The Terry Pool project will cover two separate surfaces along the face of the pool house and be led by artist Sophie Groenstein with assistance from another muralist with painting to begin in the next few weeks.

MOTION By Harry Amadasun
 seconded by Awet Tsegai

that in accordance with Section 10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council waive the bidding procedures required by Section 10-7(b) and allow the Town, subject to approval by Corporation Counsel, to contract with the RiseUp Group, Inc, to create murals on the pool houses located at Martin Park and Terry Pool for the sum of \$19,500 in ARPA Arts funds, the same being in the best interests of the Town given the ability of the RiseUp Group, Inc, to complete the mural during October, the Town's positive experience with RiseUp Group, Inc, and the limited number of organizations currently doing mural work of this type.

Motion carried 8/0

The Chair proposed that in the interest of bringing attention to the various murals throughout East Hartford, the Town provide on its website a map with locations of the projects and biographical information about each of the artists who have contributed to them.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Don Bell

to **adjourn** at 6:32 pm

Motion carried 8/0

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 Town Council Clerk