

## **Township of Southgate**

### **Administration Office**

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## **Staff Report CAO2020-063**

**Title of Report:** Southgate Welcoming Community Planning

**Department:** Administration

**Council Date:** October 21, 2020

### **Council Recommendation:**

**Be it resolved that** Council receive Staff Report CAO2020-063 as information; and **That** Council approve staff proceeding with a discussion with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Southgate staff, South East Grey Community Health Centre and JunCtian Community Initiatives on the issues of developing a Welcoming Community Plan and Programming; and

**That** Council approve as part of these Welcoming Community Plan and Programming discussions that a Committee Terms of Reference be created for a Welcoming Community Committee with consideration that at some point in time to include consultation with a Community Round Table Plan on discussing the issues of being a more Welcoming Community, to develop strategies to welcome and invite newcomers to be part of our community, by embracing the change we see today through inclusion, to better support our Community Action Plan Goals, to develop discussions on new ideas for programming services as we grow, to identify the social gaps we need to address, to deal with the challenges in our Community Safety & Well Being Plan issues and priorities we will be receiving shortly, and that the Terms of Reference document will identify community partners to be involved in, discuss, deal with and recommend actions for these important issues.

### **Background:**

The CAO has heard comments that Southgate should be a more welcoming community. This issue cuts across all ages within our community from youth to seniors and community groups from sports to service organizations. We all need to do our part and be a part of addressing this issue. We need to create programs to welcome newcomers, make sure our playgrounds are safe, create broad range of inclusionary programs of interest and promote to our existing community members that we reach out to invite new people into our organizations.

### **Staff Comments:**

#### **Southgate Welcoming Community Plan**

At the present time we have Library, Recreation and SEGCHC programs that we are delivering to our community. Many of the programs do not overlap and are designed to focus on a wide range of interests and support youth, seniors and our community as a whole. However, some programs can be seen to overlap and do not support business, social and community challenges. One of the challenges we have today is our community, its demographics and its needs are changing rapidly. Our concern is we need to start now to plan and prepare for this change.

Staff (Library, Recreation, and CAO) want to proceed with discussions internally including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, SEGCHC (Health) and JunCtian Community Initiative (JCI) members related to a broader range of programs services we could deliver working together and including other partners. This would include working with Grey County Economic Development to support businesses, Social Services around support programs, Housing related to affordability, OPP to support community safety, etc. The idea of growing the support of the group discussed earlier in this paragraph would be through a round table discussion and consultation effort with interested partners from agriculture, commercial and industrial business, community groups, developers, schools, interested service providers, etc.

There are many issues we need to deal with as our community grows and changes

- Being a more Welcoming Community by developing strategies to welcome and invite newcomers to be part of our community;
- Embracing the changes we see today through inclusion;
- Better support our Community Action Plan Goals through more discussions and consultation;
- Develop dialogue on new ideas for programming services as we grow as a community;
- Identify the social gaps we need to address; and
- Deal with the challenges in our Community Safety & Well Being Plan issues and priorities we will be receiving shortly.

Staff recommend that we start a process, create discussion, develop a plan, draft a terms of reference document for a Welcoming Community Committee with a plan, the required training/programs and a round table consultation process to achieve broad community interest, involvement, discussions and communication.

### **Financial Impact or Long-Term Implications**

The financial impact to the municipality as a result of this report would Council member and staff time to work on the planning and developing programs.

### **Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:**

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

### **Goal 3 - Promoting Health Services and Housing Choices**

**Action 3:** The residents and businesses of Southgate envision a caring community which meets the needs of all ages and incomes for a healthy and comfortable life, even as our population grows and changes.

**Strategic Initiatives 3-B (2019-2023):** The Township will have been a significant advocate for and contributor to a new and expanded South East Grey Community Health Centre clinic in Southgate.

**Strategic Initiatives 3-C (2019-2023):** The Township will have worked with the County, Public Health, Police, and other agencies to develop a profile of the Southgate population in 10-15 years time, and to develop a shared image of the health, housing, and social support services that will be required by that time.

### **Concluding Comments**

1. That Council receive staff report CAO2020-0063 as information.
2. That Council provide direction to staff to proceed with developing a Southgate Welcoming Committee Plan and work with an initial Committee of Southgate Council members, Township staff, SEGCHC and JCI staff to develop planning, programs and a Terms of Reference document.

Respectfully Submitted,

**CAO approval: Original Signed By**

Dave Milliner – CAO

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