



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting

From: Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services

Date: 2020-10-08

Subject: Holiday Festival of Lights

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services; and

That West Elgin Council approve the creation of a small committee, comprised of municipal staff and West Lorne Optimists members, to deliver a Festival of Lights in replacement of the Rodney and West Lorne Christmas Parades in 2020.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to garner Council's support for the idea of a Festival of Lights, to be held at the Rodney fairgrounds this holiday season.

Background:

With COVID-19 still very much a part of our everyday lives, many events are either being postponed or cancelled. Basing the decision on current public health guidelines, both the Rodney and West Lorne Santa Clause parades have been cancelled for 2020. With this in mind, our Community Services Assistant came up with a novel idea for holding a 'drive thru' festival of lights. This proposed event would be open to all participants of the two existing parades, as well as any other local business or resident who would like to be involved. It could be held at the Rodney Fair Grounds, where the racetrack would provide a perfect area to set up displays and have people drive slowly through, away from normal traffic on the streets.

West Elgin staff have reached out to the West Lorne Optimist Club as they traditionally organize the West Lorne parade. They too see merit in providing some opportunity for community members to get out and enjoy the holiday season. We have also checked with SWPH, who feel (at this time) that an event of this nature would be acceptable. Based on support from the Optimists, we would like to move forward with planning this event and utilizing a portion of the money, which was allocated in the 2020 budget for the two Christmas Parades.

Financial Implications:

Staff will work within budgeted amounts and costs will not exceed the totals already allocated in the 2020 budget for implementation of the Rodney and West Lorne Christmas Parades.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Holiday Festival of Lights - 2020-16-Operations Community Services.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 6, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jana Nethercott