MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON MARCH 6, 2017 AT 5:10 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

Chair
Nicole Forbes

Mayor
Peter F. Trent

Councillors
Philip A. Cutler
Victor M. Drury
Patrick Martin
Theodora Samiotis
Christina Smith

Absent
Rosalind Davis
Cynthia Lulham

Administration
Sean Michael Deegan, Director General
Martin St-Jean, Director of Legal Services and City Clerk

Recording Secretary
Andrew Brownstein

GENERAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Adoption of the General Committee Agenda of March 6, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the March 6, 2017 meeting of the General Committee of Council be adopted, with the addition of the following item under New Business:

- Former Montreal Children’s Hospital Redevelopment (Councillor Samiotis).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on February 20, 2017

The Minutes of the General Committee of Council’s meeting held on February 20, 2017 were adopted with corrections.

Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on February 20, 2017

Confidential items were discussed.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

Mr. Tom Flies, Director of Urban Planning, and Ms. Julia Gersovitz, Chair of the PAC, joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

Ms. Gersovitz left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Flies left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

VENDÔME PROJECT - UPDATE

Councillor Smith updated Council on the STM’s proposed project to improve the underground network between the MUHC and Vendôme metro station, further to her attendance of a public meeting held on March 1st. She informed Council that the meeting only had a small turnout of residents. Councillor Martin noted that the residents of the Vendôme Village were invited to a separate meeting.

Councillor Smith outlined the truck route as proposed; 60% of the trucks would enter and exit on the Westmount side and the remaining 40% would commute via the south, through the City of Montreal. Westmount’s share of truck traffic would use Sainte-Catherine Street, with a maximum of 30 trucks commuting per hour, one truck’s entrance and exit counting as two trucks commuting. In order to proceed in this manner, the STM has proposed to cut the New Jersey median on Sainte-Catherine Street.

Councillor Smith relayed the Mayor’s suggestion for an alternative truck route, in which Mr. Jonathan Auger, Traffic Technician – Public Works, and the STM have expressed interest. Rather than cutting the New Jersey median, the two lanes to the south and west of the barrier will be converted to allow two-way traffic for the trucks only while the two lanes to the north and east of the barrier will used for two-way traffic for all other vehicles. Councillor Smith informed Council that Mr. Auger is examining the feasibility of this truck route.

Councillor Smith reported that the STM’s contract with its contractor will provide for a sufficient number of parking spaces to be created for workers on the site, to be enforced with a fine for workers parking off-site.

Councillor Smith drew Council’s attention to the potential Provigo project proposed for the same site, to be located immediately above the STM’s underground project. Given the impossibility of managing these two construction projects simultaneously, she recommended that Westmount insist on an official confirmation from the City of Montreal that this second project will not be initiated at the same time as the STM is carrying out theirs. The Mayor agreed.
Councillor Drury informed Council that the STM has planned for the installation of two washing stations on the site for the trucks. The Director General noted that the flusher will most likely have to be run continuously during working hours.

Given that the trucks are proposed to commute only on the portion of Sainte-Catherine Street that is to the north of the access point to the site, on the portion that is to the southeast of the access point and to the south of the median, Councillor Martin proposed condemning the southern sidewalk and permitting parking for workers, as all other vehicles will be commuting in the two lanes to the north of the barrier. The Mayor expressed his openness to the proposal. He recommended confirming that no trucks will be commuting on the portion of Sainte-Catherine Street that is to the south and east of the access point to the site.

**DAYCARE PARKING POLICY**

The Director General explained that further to Public Security’s survey, K.I.D.S. Daycare is the only establishment that is currently in need of a drop-off zone. The Director General informed Council that the parking signs for this drop-off zone have already been ordered and will be installed further to Council’s prospective adoption of the required by-law amendment.

Councillor Martin pointed out that Public Works’ memorandum recommends against a requirement for the daycare to station a staff member outside at the drop-off zone to assist in efficiently bringing students inside and seeing them off.

- **It was agreed** to adopt the draft daycare drop-off zone policy.

Confidential items were discussed.

**SANCTUARY CITY**

Councillor Smith briefed Council on the recent trend of cities declaring themselves to be “sanctuary cities.” She explained that the term denotes the city’s dedication to ensuring services are provided to undocumented refugees. She informed Council that the City of Montreal recently declared itself a sanctuary city. She explained that these declarations only have symbolic value, as a resident’s immigration status is of no concern to a municipality. Rather than adopting a motion declaring Westmount a sanctuary city, the Mayor proposed adopting a motion that affirms the City’s dedication to providing services to all residents regardless of their immigration status. Mme St-Jean noted that municipalities are already obliged to provide their services to all residents.

- **It was agreed** that the City will not adopt a motion declaring it to be a sanctuary city as such, but would be open to a declaration regarding the provision of City services to all.
Confidential items were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 9:47 p.m. Mme St-Jean did not return to the meeting.

Confidential items were discussed.

**COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP**

**Infrastructure and Parks**

Regarding the bids for the provision of the new equipment to be installed in Westmount Park, the Director General informed Council that the specs were too precise, and accordingly, all of the bids were non-conforming. He relayed Mme St-Jean's counsel that in such a case, all of the bids may be discounted. He explained that the City will revise the specs and then seek new bids.

**Communications**

Councillor Smith reported that the *Plan d'action 2017 à l’égard des personnes handicapées* is to be posted on the City's website. Councillor Martin recommended providing an accompanying bilingual explanation as to why the document is only in French.

Councillor Smith reiterated her recommendation for the City to provide residents with information on renovations and constructions in anticipation of the upcoming season via its website. Councillor Samiotis recommended posting the “How to be a good neighbour during construction” pamphlet, which contains a checklist for residents to direct their contractors, on the City’s website. She suggested placing Renovating and Building in Westmount in a more visible location on the website.

- It was agreed that the City will provide residents with information on renovations and constructions in anticipation of the upcoming season via its website.

Confidential items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS: FORMER MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT**

Councillor Samiotis informed Council of a petition of parents lobbying for a new francophone public school in the borough of Ville-Marie, addressed to Mayor Denis Coderre. She reported that the president of the parent-teacher committee is recommending that the requested new school be part of the redevelopment of the former Montreal Children’s Hospital.
Councillor Samiotis inquired as to the status of the City's communication of its comments on the proposed redevelopment. The Mayor informed Council that he has been organizing the City's response to the proposed project, namely that the buildings are far too high, there is no greenspace, among other issues. He invited all Councillors wishing to contribute to do so. He recommended sending the City's comments to the Office des consultations and possibly to the developers as well.

The Mayor pointed out that the proposed project perpetuates a trend in Ville-Marie that must be corrected, specifically, the construction of more residences prior to ensuring sufficient services can be provided to these new residents.

**ABSENCES**

Council members were requested to submit their absence sheets to the City Clerk.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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Nicole Forbes                       M\textsuperscript{o} Martin St-Jean
Acting Mayor                        Director of Legal Services and City Clerk