MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON MAY 15, 2017 AT 4:06 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Theodora Samiotis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>Christina Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councillors</td>
<td>Philip A. Cutler, Rosalind Davis, Victor M. Drury, Nicole Forbes, Patrick Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Cynthia Lulham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Sean Michael Deegan, Director General, Nicole Dobbie, Assistant Director of Legal Services and Assistant City Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Andrew Brownstein</td>
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NOTE TO THE READER:

The comments, opinions and any consensus views reflected herein are those of the participants in their individual capacity. As such, they are not binding upon the City or the administration.

The City and its administration are only bound by decisions that are authorized by the Municipal Council in the course of a public meeting by way of a resolution or a by-law.

GENERAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Adoption of the General Committee Agenda of May 15, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the May 15, 2017 meeting of the General Committee of Council be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Greene Avenue Merchants’ Event (Councillor Forbes);
- Indoor Pool (Mayor Smith);
- Southeast Study Update (Councillor Samiotis);
- Greenhouse Update (Director General Deegan); and
- Honouring and Promoting Volunteer Involvement (Mayor Smith).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

PARKING METERS REPORT

Mr. Benoit Hurtubise, Assistant Director General and Director Hydro Westmount, and Mr. Claude Vallières, Division Head – I.T., joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m.
The Director General reported that the parking meter system has been nominated for an award.

Mr. Vallières presented Council with the parking meter statistics derived from the first full year of data available since the new system’s installation. The statistics demonstrate the revenue earned per month, the modes of payment used, and the amounts collected in each zone. He noted that payments are increasingly being made from the mobile application, which he pointed out results in less administrative expenses than payments by credit card and by cash. He explained that the frequency of payments by credit card have remained stable while cash payments are decreasing in frequency.

Councillor Cutler informed Council that according to a statistic presented a conference on revenue management for parking meters, 23% of the revenue of traditional parking meters is spent on the collection and transportation of the change to the bank. Councillor Samiotis pointed out that accordingly, the revenue received from the former parking meters must be considered in light of these costs. Mr. Vallières reported that the overall administrative costs have decreased under the new system while the revenue has remained roughly the same.

Mr. Vallières informed Council that 1.2 million transactions were carried out over the course of the year. Further to Councillor Drury’s inquiry, Mr. Vallières confirmed that when a motorist pays an additional amount to extend the time during which his vehicle can remain parked, this additional payment constitutes a second transaction.

Further to Councillor Cutler’s inquiry, Mr. Vallières and the Director General confirmed that the mobile application now permits additional payments to be made to add time while there is still time remaining.

The Director General noted that Council had planned to review the modifications that were made to the schedule for paid parking upon the installation of the new system after the first year of its use. He explained that the City reduced the general hours in the morning and evening and stopped charging for parking on legal holidays. Mr. Vallières informed Council that the reduction of the morning hours, namely from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., has resulted in a more significant loss of revenue than the reduction of the evening hours.

Further to the Mayor’s inquiry, Mr. Vallières informed Council that the City of Montreal charges for parking as of 9:00 a.m. The Mayor expressed her hesitation to begin charging for parking earlier in the morning than the City of Montreal does.

Councillor Samiotis explained that she would be more open to considering an increase of the rate charged than a modification of the hours for paid parking. The Mayor agreed. Mr. Vallières informed Council that if the hourly rate for parking is modified to $2.25 in both zones, the total revenue will remain the same.

The Assistant Director General pointed out that the City is expected to lose an estimated $300,000 in parking meter revenue due to the work that the STM will carry out on Sherbrooke Street this summer.
The Director General recommended that at an upcoming General Committee meeting, the administration will provide Council with a recommendation as to whether the hours for paid parking or the differentiation of rates between zones should be modified, based on statistics estimating the impact that such modifications would have on the parking meters’ revenue.

- It was agreed that at an upcoming General Committee meeting, the administration will provide Council with a recommendation as to whether the hours for paid parking or the differentiation of rates between zones should be modified, based on statistics estimating the impact that such modifications would have on the parking meters’ revenue.

**GPS FOR CITY VEHICLES**

Mr. Vallières reported that further to the installation of a demo version in February, in 12 Public Works vehicles, if the City decides to pursue the project, equipping 60 to 70 of its Public Works vehicles with the GPS technology, the installation will cost $50,000, with the system being operated at a rate of $21,000 in annual costs.

Mr. Vallières outlined the system’s uses. Vehicles can be located in real time, their trajectories can be tracked and records kept for each day, which will allow for efficient monitoring of snow removal operations and the salting of roads. Their speed along these trajectories, as well as the time spent idling, can also be recorded. Additionally, the vehicles’ motors can be turned off automatically after a certain period of time spent idling.

Mr. Vallières presented the software’s interface, through which the above information can be consulted. He demonstrated that information can be retrieved on one or multiple vehicles at a time, which can allow to quickly ascertain the status of snow removal operations.

Councillor Martin joined the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

The Assistant Director General added that the process of line painting and street sweeping can be tracked in this manner as well.

Confidential items were discussed.

**LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM**

Mr. Vallières presented a visual rendering of the cameras that are proposed to be installed on parking monitoring vehicles as part of a license plate recognition system that will scan license plates and therefore help to more efficiently enforce parking regulations.

Mr. Vallières informed Council that in order for the project to finance itself over a five year period, the installation of a camera on one vehicle would need to result in four additional tickets issued per day, and the installation of cameras on two vehicles would need to result in a total of five additional tickets issued per day. Accordingly, Mr. Vallières recommended equipping two vehicles with the cameras.
Mr. Vallières noted that applicants for overnight parking permits will need to provide more information if the license plate recognition system is installed.

Mr. Vallières explained that as the parking monitoring vehicle circulates, the camera takes photographs of every parked vehicle. When the parking monitoring vehicle returns to the same area and takes a photograph of the same vehicle parked in exactly the same spot beyond the permitted time that it may remain parked in that same location, an infraction is issued. Mr. Vallières explained that the system compares the backgrounds of the two photographs to ascertain whether the vehicle is in fact in exactly the same location. Councillor Cutler noted that both photographs can also be manually compared.

Councillor Cutler inquired as to the possibility of an autonomous vehicle carrying out this work without an employee present inside. Mr. Vallières confirmed that this would be possible.

Councillor Samiotis recommended focusing efforts with the proposed new system on residential areas in order to avoid putting more pressure on the commercial centers.

Mr. Vallières reported that it would cost $275,000 in order to equip two vehicles with cameras and operate the system for a period of five years. Further to Councillor Martin’s inquiry, Mr. Vallières informed Council that roughly $110,000 to $120,000 would be due in the first year, adding that he will confirm the precise amount.

The Mayor noted that the new system requires that an employee monitor it full-time. Mr. Vallières pointed out that on the other hand, parking monitoring vehicles will circulate much faster. The Mayor requested more information as to the staffing requirements associated with the proposed system and the resulting costs.

- **It was agreed** that at the upcoming General Committee meeting, Mr. Vallières and Mr. Greg McBain, Director of Public Security, will present the staffing costs associated with the proposed license plate recognition system in order to carry out a more comprehensive cost-benefit analysis.

Councillor Martin reported that he has recently received several spam emails on his Westmount email address directing him to links containing viruses. He explained that while he does not click on the links, he recommended educating employees who may need assistance in recognizing that certain emails are in fact links to viruses. He noted that in the United States, some employers send emails from unknown addresses that are meant to test whether their employees recognize the risks of opening these links. Mr. Vallières agreed that the City should further educate its employees in this regard. He confirmed that he will determine how to best approach this and report to Council on the matter.

Mr. Vallières left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.
Councillor Samiotis briefed Council on the appointment of Ms. Natalie Jodoin as the new Assistant Director of Urban Planning. Councillor Samiotis explained that Ms. Jodoin, an architect, will work to preserve the City’s built heritage. When Mr. Tom Flies, Director of Urban Planning, is absent, she will sit on the PAC as his replacement.

Director Flies joined the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

M̈ Dobbie informed Council that as the Demolition Hearing constitutes a Special Sitting, a question period must be held. It is scheduled to be held following Council’s deliberation on the application.

Ms. Jodoin joined the meeting at 5:03 p.m. Council members congratulated her on her appointment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m., at which point Council held its Special Sitting and Demolition Hearing. The meeting was reconvened at 5:45 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m., at which point Council completed the Demolition Hearing. The meeting was reconvened at 6:09.

Ms. Elisa Gaetano, Assistant Director of Public Works – Engineering and Infrastructure, and Mr. Shawn Aloysius, Senior Engineer – Public Works, joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Ms. Gaetano introduce Mr. Aloysius, informing Council that he will begin working with the City on July 4th. His first project will be the reconfiguration of Anwoth Road, for which tenders open on May 17th.

Council members congratulated Mr. Aloysius on his appointment.

2017 CAPITAL WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

Ms. Gaetano proposed the addition of a sidewalk reconstruction project to the 2017 Capital Works infrastructure budget in light of the rejected bids for the Argyle Avenue water main rehabilitation project. The Assistant Director General explained the proposal in the context of budget forecasts presented to the Finance and Administration Committee two weeks prior.

Ms. Gaetano explained that the City allocated $8.2 million to work on its sidewalks, roads, water network, and sewer network. Given the rejection of the unreasonably high bids for the Argyle Avenue water main rehabilitation project, the City is only projected to use 86% of this budget. While resources are too limited to begin designing and seeking tenders for a new project, Ms. Gaetano recommended spending the remaining 14%, $1.1 million, on more sidewalk work. She proposed the reconstruction of the sidewalks on Argyle Avenue, the replacement of the street’s lights, as well as the reconstruction of an additional 2,700
square meters of sidewalks throughout the City in areas that receive significant pedestrian traffic.

Ms. Gaetano pointed out that the budget projections are based on the trends set by the bids retained for the tenders issued thus far in 2017.

Further to Councillor Cutler’s inquiry, Ms. Gaetano informed Council that a sidewalk’s average lifespan is at least 40 to 50 years. Councillor Martin expressed his understanding that the sidewalk’s average lifespan is roughly 60 to 70 years.

Councillor Cutler inquired as to whether the City would catch up to its standard of sidewalk maintenance if the proposed work were to be carried out. Ms. Gaetano explained that even with this project, the City would still have more work to do to catch up to its standard. She explained that the City will not carry out work on sidewalks where there are currently lead water services that the City ultimately intends on replacing, nor where there exists the possibility of reconfiguring the roadway, with the exception of areas in serious need.

Councillor Cutler inquired as to whether sidewalks in front of schools can be widened. Ms. Gaetano explained that this is not recommended, as it would entail the relocation of the street catch basins, requiring a greater slope from the crown of the street.

The Mayor expressed her support for the proposal, noting that she has been assured that it will not impact the completion of the other scheduled projects.

Councillor Martin expressed his support for the proposal. He suggested presenting the project in the context of the number of square meters of sidewalk that will be reconstructed in relation to the total area of the City’s sidewalks, in consideration of a sidewalk’s average lifespan, and accordingly, the rate at which sidewalk reconstruction should be pursued.

The Mayor emphasized that any sidewalk reconstruction carried out in front of schools must be done before the start of the school year. Ms. Gaetano confirmed that such work will be carried out in August before the start of the school year. She noted that while it would be preferable to carry out the work in July, this is most likely not feasible.

Councillor Samiotis drew Council’s attention to the several lanes throughout the City in need of work, noting that perhaps these cannot be addressed as part of the same project. Ms. Gaetano agreed that several lanes, as well as parking lots, are in need of work; however, as sidewalks receive more use, the City has prioritized their reconstruction for 2017.

Confidential items were discussed.

- **It was agreed** that the City will allocate its projected 14% of the 2017 Capital Works infrastructure budget that would remain unused given the current trends, namely $1.1 million, to carry out sidewalk reconstruction work. The contract is to ideally be awarded in July.
GROSVENOR – UPDATE

Ms. Gaetano reported that the new water main is scheduled to be installed later that week. She informed Council that the road will not be closed for this stage. She explained that first a temporary water main will be installed. Residents will be advised as to when and how they are to connect their residences to the temporary water main. The water will be tested and the rest of the work will resume after approximately one week.

Ms. Gaetano informed Council that further to Bell Canada and Vidéotron disagreeing with each other over where their respective utilities will be placed, and further to the City’s insistence that the companies come to an agreement on the matter, the companies have reached an agreement and have hired a common contractor to carry out the work for both of them.

Ms. Gaetano reported that under the contract for the Grosvenor Avenue project, work is to be carried out during the construction holiday as well. She noted, however, that the construction unions have voted to potentially strike, which is beyond the City’s control. She pointed out that in 2013, the government ordered the resumption of construction work one week into a strike, resulting in delays of only one week.

Ms. Gaetano informed Council that residents will firstly be provided with the name and telephone number of Mr. Christian Sipos, the site inspector. She reported that Mr. Cristian Sipos, Civil Engineer – Public Works, is the project manager, noting his past experience with similar projects.

Councillor Martin recommended that the notices sent to residents also be posted on the City’s website. Ms. Gaetano confirmed that she will ensure this is done.

The Mayor expressed the difficulty for Public Works to manage the extensive communications associated with this project given the many concerns expressed by residents. Accordingly, the City is seeking to curb the influx of emails by delivering communications to the residences and by having Mr. Sipos present during the work to directly address concerns on-site.

Confidential items were discussed.

Ms. Gaetano and Mr. Aloysius left the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

SNOW REMOVAL – POST MORTEM 2016-2017

The Assistant Director General presented the post mortem analysis of snow removal operations during the March 14th to 16th snowstorm, during which close to 50cm of snow fell, one of the largest snowstorms in decades.

The Assistant Director General explained that sidewalk cleaners could not clean through the large piles of snow on the sidewalks, many of which were the product of private contractors pushing snow onto the public domain. He informed Council that small snow blowing units can be attached to the Bombardier sidewalk cleaners, which will allow to blow
snow onto the street in cases of major snowfalls. The Assistant Director General pointed out that the City does not blow this snow onto private residences. However, in the case of major storms, snow ploughs cannot clear the full width of the street in any case, requiring snow removal trucks to circulate later. While these snow blowing sidewalk ploughs will circulate slower than regular sidewalk ploughs, it is the only way to clear sidewalks with large snow piles. He proposed that the City purchase two of these snow blowing units, which will be installed on the sidewalk ploughs for use in storms when more than 30cm is expected to fall.

In order to address the issue of private contractors dumping snow from residences onto sidewalks, the Assistant Director General informed Council that Public Security will issue a notice to the contractors who are known to do so when they reapply for their permit. The Assistant Director General reported that the City has undertaken a communication campaign to inform residents of how to better manage their contractors’ removal of snow from their residences.

The Assistant Director General reported that the City intends to increase its fleet of snow removal trucks to a total of 36 vehicles. He informed Council of the plan to increase operations overnight, as it is nearly impossible to carry out snow removal in the commercial sectors during the day, and much less safe for such operations to be carried out around schools during the day.

Councillor Davis expressed her support for the plans to improve snow removal operations, and in particular, the plan to purchase a few snow blowing units for the sidewalk ploughs.

Councillor Martin expressed his support for the plan to increase overnight snow removal operations, focusing on the commercial sectors and schools. He recommended increasing the fine imposed on contractors for dumping snow on the public way, pointing out that at the current fine of $200, and the frequency at which contractors are caught and fined for this contravention, the fine does not have a dissuasive effect, nor does it cover the cost of the resources the City must use to clean up their mess. He recommended that Director Flies define specifically how much snow must be dumped on the public way to be considered a contravention of the by-law.

➢ It was agreed that further to recommendations to be submitted from Director Flies as to the appropriate manner of defining what constitutes dumping snow on the public domain and a fitting fine for contravening the by-law in this regard, the City will prospectively amend its by-law in the proposed manner.

Councillor Samiotis recommended that contractors who are already repeat offenders, to be based on whether they have already received numerous fines or notices, be informed when they seek to renew their permits that they will receive the maximum fine for their subsequent contraventions until a certain time has elapsed without them having contravened the by-law in this manner. Councillor Martin agreed.

Councillor Samiotis noted that the City’s guidelines prohibit the installation of garage doors that are visible from the street. As a result, the installation of garage doors on the back or sides of houses have led to significantly long driveways, which have made for larger areas on the private domain requiring snow removal.
Councillor Cutler recommended advising residents through Info Panne or other means of communication when the City intends to carry out snow removal operations overnight.

Councillor Drury inquired as to whether the white noise back-up system has been installed on the City’s trucks. The Assistant Director General confirmed that it has; however, the contractors’ trucks that carry out snow removal operations are not equipped with this technology.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – UPDATE

Mme Dobbie distributed copies of the Commission d’accès à l’information’s brochure.

Mme Dobbie explained that the Act respecting Access to Documents held by Public Bodies and the Protection of Personal Information endows the mayor with the responsibility of the Act’s administration. The mayor has the power to delegate this responsibility, which former Mayor Peter Trent delegated to Mme Dobbie. Mme Dobbie explained that in her absence, Mme St-Jean acts as her replacement.

Mme Dobbie explained that the Act stipulates that all requests must be addressed to the person in charge of its administration, namely her. She informed Council that requests can be made verbally or in writing; however, only a decision further to a request made in writing can be contested. Mme Dobbie explained that individuals making verbal access to information requests are informed in this regard. She informed Council that requests must be processed within 20 days, which can be extended by an additional 10 days upon the City informing the individual making the request.

Mme Dobbie explained that in general, documents are accessible, subject to certain exceptions, most of which relate to the protection of personal information. Personal information is defined as anything that could identify an individual. If personal information forms the substance of the document, it cannot be released. If it does not, the document can be released after all personal information is blacked out. For example, a copy of an infraction notice to a natural person requested by another person than the one who received the infraction would need to be refused.

Mme Dobbie identified another exception to the rule of the public nature of the public bodies’ documents, documents provided by third parties. For example in the context of a request for access to documents regarding a permit application sought by another individual, a study commissioned by the permit applicant cannot be released without the latter’s permission, as he is the owner of the study.

Mme Dobbie informed Council that studies commissioned, and therefore owned, by the City can be withheld for 10 years. Councillor Martin inquired as to how Mme Dobbie decides in these discretionary situations. She explained that she discusses the matter with the department for which the study was commissioned and consults the relevant jurisprudence on requests for documents of the same nature.
Referring to her past experience in federal politics, Councillor Samiotis explained that politicians are generally kept apprised as to the documents being released further to requests made under the Act. The Mayor and Councillor Drury expressed their support for considering such a practice.

Further to Councillor Drury’s inquiry, Ms Dobbie informed Council that the City receives roughly 20 access to information requests each month.

Councillor Cutler suggested that the Director General consult the other director generals on the Island as to how they keep their city’s council apprised of the release of information that could be contentious.

➢ It was agreed that the Director General will consult the other director generals on the Island as to how they keep their city’s council apprised of the release of information that could be contentious.

The Assistant Director General, Ms Dobbie, and Ms Andrew Brownstein, Recording Secretary, left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

An item was discussed in caucus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: GREENE AVENUE MERCHANTS’ EVENT

Councillor Forbes referred to the City’s decision to provide $1,500 as funding for the Victoria Village Merchants Association’s event in addition to the resources it will allocate to the event, and its decision to encourage a street festival on Greene Avenue, to be prospectively sponsored in the same manner. Councillor Forbes informed Council of the City’s efforts to encourage and assist the Greene Avenue merchants’ organization of a food-based “Taste of Greene” event.

Councillor Forbes explained that the event could be held without closing the street to vehicular traffic, as had been previously discussed. Councillor Samiotis agreed, pointing out that the public square could be used. Councillor Martin agreed, suggesting that a few parking spots could be temporarily removed to be used as space for the event to avoid closing the street.

Councillor Forbes suggested the possibility of holding wine tasting outdoors. She informed Council that she will consult Urban Planning as to whether this is possible.

Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on May 1, 2017

Confidential items were discussed.
Further to Councillor Davis’ inquiry, Councillor Samiotis confirmed that the economic development survey on the City’s commercial sectors includes the portion of Sainte Catherine Street between Greene Avenue and Atwater Avenue. The Director General relayed the expectation of Mr. Mark Wilkins, of Mark Wilkins Communication: Market Research and Innovation, for the survey’s data to be very accurate.

DOCKLESS BIKE SHARE

Councillor Cutler relayed a proposal from Dropbike, a company hoping to initiate a dockless bicycle sharing system in Westmount. Councillor Cutler explained that unlike the docks required for the BIXI system, which necessitate the removal of parking spaces, when the user is done with the bicycle, he simply leaves it in a designated area, ideally against a bicycle rack, stops the meter, which charges a rate of $1 and hour, and the back wheel locks. Councillor Cutler likened the system to Car2Go.

Councillor Cutler explained that the City’s role is solely to help decide upon the geofencing, the determination of the areas where the bicycles can be locked. Pointing out that the bicycles do not lock to anything, but rather only the back wheel locks, Councillor Cutler explained that the company can technically initiate the project anywhere, effectively leaving locked bicycles against bicycle racks at its own risk. However, Councillor Cutler explained, the company aims for the municipalities to support and promote the project.

Councillor Cutler informed Council that as the bicycles are tracked by GPS, it is a deterrent to their theft. In any case, he explained that the City need not consider the company’s protection of its property.

Councillor Cutler explained that the GPS allows for the City to receive data as to cyclists’ preferred routes, which can assist the City in the management of its bicycle path network.

Councillor Cutler informed Council that while this dockless bicycle sharing system exists across Asia, it would be the first of its kind in Canada, and likely in all of North America. Dropbike has proposed to run a pilot project in Westmount with 100 bicycles. He explained that he found this to be a significant number, but the company insisted.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Martin expressed his support for the proposal. However, he expressed his hope that Dropbike has considered and will be able to manage the relocation of the many bicycles that will be left locked downhill from the City. Councillor Cutler confirmed that a Dropbike employee would be managing their relocation back to the City.

Further to Councillor Davis’ inquiry, Councillor Cutler informed Council that Dropbike’s proposed model is not equipped with gears. Councillor Martin recommended advising the company to consider the use of a model with gears given the City’s topography.

Further to Councillor Davis’ inquiry, Councillor Cutler confirmed that the locked bicycles will ideally be placed against bicycle racks, which will impact the number of spots available for other cyclists. In order to mitigate the impact on the City’s bicycle parking spaces,
Councillor Samiotis recommended that the project be initiated with 50 bicycles. The Mayor seconded her recommendation.

Councillor Forbes emphasized that the locations within which bicycles can be locked and left must be strictly defined. Councillor Cutler explained that the geofencing will only allow for the bicycles to be locked within certain areas.

Confidential items were discussed.

**ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/AMT**

Councillor Samiotis informed Council that a *comité de bon voisinage* meeting will be held in Westmount on May 29th at 7:00 p.m. She reported that the Assistant Director General will be stepping down from his position on the committee, to be replaced by Mr. Jonathan Auger, Traffic Technician – Public Works.

Confidential items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS: INDOOR POOL**

Further to the proposals for the consideration of an indoor pool expressed by Councillor Davis and Councillor Martin at the General Committee meeting held on May 1st, the Mayor proposed to begin with a user study. She explained that the user study will aim to establish a better understanding of the existing indoor pools around the City, namely in terms of the extent to which they are used, when they are used, and by what types of groups. She explained this as a initial step prior to carrying out a feasibility study, which can be expensive.

Councillor Martin explained that at the previous General Committee meeting, he had proposed that the City carry out a pre-feasibility study, which would incorporate the elements addressed by the proposed user study. He explained that a pre-feasibility would also more directly, but only preliminarily, assess what type of facility would be required for a prospective indoor pool in Westmount. He reiterated his proposal to carry out the pre-feasibility study himself, which he estimated would take four to six weeks. The Mayor encouraged Councillor Martin’s involvement in the prospective study; however, she recommended that the study be managed by an independent third party.

Councillor Cutler recommended considering whether the City’s current pool could be used in the winter, perhaps with the installation of a retractable roof, as part of the prospective study. Councillor Martin seconded the recommendation, noting, however, that further to his assessment of this possibility two years prior, he concluded that such a facility would be difficult to manage in terms of ensuring proper ventilation.

Councillor Drury recommended inquiring with the City of Côte Saint-Luc as to its experience with its operation of its indoor pool since its construction in 2011.

Confidential items were discussed.
The Mayor supported the recommendation, noting the importance of considering examples of indoor pools in similar municipal environments.

The Director General informed Council that the user study carried out prior to the construction of the WRC took two-and-a-half months to be completed. Councillor Drury expressed his expectation for the proposed user study to be simpler, and therefore faster, to carry out.

Councillor Davis expressed her support for carrying out the proposed user study.

- **It was agreed** that the City will carry out a user study in order to establish a better understanding of the existing indoor pools around the City, namely in terms of the extent to which they are used, when they are used, and by what types of groups. (Councillor Martin abstained)

Confidential items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS: SOUTHEAST STUDY UPDATE**

Councillor Samiotis reported that the Steering Committee’s upcoming meeting is scheduled to be held on May 23rd, at which AGIL’s proposed vision for the southeast will be assessed. She informed Council that she is to receive a preliminary report on May 17th and expressed her hope to present the vision at the June Regular Sitting.

Once the vision is presented to the public, Councillor Samiotis recommended seeking residents’ comments through a couple of consultations and perhaps with the placement of a model in the library on which residents can express their opinions. She also recommended posting the AGIL study on the City’s website.

She explained that ultimately, it will be the future Council’s decision as to how to act upon AGIL’s proposed vision and the residents’ opinions on it.

**NEW BUSINESS: GREENHOUSE UPDATE**

The Director General reported that during the previous week, he met with the Assistant Director General and Ms. Julia Gersovitz, Chair of the PAC, to discuss the status of the greenhouses. The Director General reported that the City has received an offer of services for the greenhouses’ restoration. He referred to the restoration of greenhouses in New York City as examples of infrastructure in worse condition than the City’s greenhouses that was deemed suitable for restoration. In fact, the Director General informed Council that the company that provided the offer of services was amazed at how strong the conservatory’s structure still is. The Assistant Director General explained that the ultimate decision of whether to undertake a restoration or a reconstruction still must be made.
NEW BUSINESS: HONOURING AND PROMOTING VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

The Mayor informed Council of her initiative to honour and promote volunteer involvement. On a regular basis, volunteers will be interviewed regarding their contributions to the City and the motivations for their involvement, which will be posted on the City website.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

_________________________  ________________________________
Theodora Samiotis       Mª Nicole Dobbie
Acting Mayor            Assistant Director of Legal Services and
                        Assistant City Clerk