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

Chair Theodora Samiotis
Mayor Christina Smith
Councillors Philip A. Cutler
Rosalind Davis
Victor M. Drury
Nicole Forbes
Cynthia Lulham
Patrick Martin

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

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 by-law.

GENERAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Adoption of the General Committee Agenda of June 5, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the June 5, 2017 meeting of the General Committee of Council be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Request from YMCA Masters Swim Team (Councillor Davis); and
- Les escales découvertes (Councillor Lulham).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meetings of General Committee held on May 1, 2017 and May 15, 2017

The Minutes of the General Committee of Council’s meetings held on May 1, 2017 and May 15, 2017 were adopted with corrections.

Confidential items were discussed.
Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in General Committee

Mme St-Jean directed Council’s attention to Item 25, regarding the MTQ’s expropriation of the City’s land. He informed Council that the City will keep possession of the Hydro Westmount lot until November 1st and the Public Works yard until spring 2018.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Samiotis reported that at that night’s Regular Sitting, some residents of Columbia Avenue may present a petition regarding speeding concerns and some residents of Prospect Street may present a petition in favour of making their street one way.

Regarding the concerned residents on Grosvenor Avenue, Councillor Martin informed Council that the City already met with them. He explained that for a road reconfiguration the City would have to first establish the most appropriate road design and further to that assess whether traffic mitigation measures, like the installation of speed bumps or stop signs, would be required.

Regarding the Grosvenor reconstruction, the Mayor explained that the residents are concerned that if the stop sign and two speed bumps currently in place on the road are removed, traffic on this long block will circulate too quickly.

Seconding Councillor Martin’s comments, Councillor Cutler emphasized the City’s dedication to deciding on these matters based on data, made possible by the work of Mr. Jonathan Auger, Traffic Technician – Public Works, which is to be collected once the new road design is in place.

Councillor Lulham noted that if bump-outs are to be included, they would be a part of the initial road design.

The Mayor pointed out that bump-outs need to be large enough to be noticed and serve their purpose, which results in lost driveway space for the residences in front of which the bump-outs are placed. As a result, these residents tend to oppose their construction. Councillor Martin pointed out that similarly, residents oppose the placement of speed bumps in front of their residences due to the noise of commuting vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS: REQUEST FROM YMCA MASTERS SWIM TEAM

Councillor Davis presented the YMCA Masters swim team’s request to use the City’s pool for a portion of the summer, as the pool at Parc Jean Drapeau, where the team usually trains, is closed for most of the season.

She relayed her discussion with Sports and Recreation. After the Fête Nationale, the Westmount Dolphins swim from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., with adult swim being held from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. The Director General explained that until June 24th, or rather the end of the school year, the Dolphins practice in the evening. As adult swim is from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. during this preseason period, Councillor Davis suggested allowing the YMCA Masters to use three of the pool’s eight lanes from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., two mornings a
week. However, she relayed Sports and Recreation’s concerns that this would be setting a precedent and acknowledged that it would be for such a short period that it may not be worth it.

Councillor Lulham cautioned against limiting adult swim after already having done so. Councillor Davis pointed out that the Westmount Masters already swim from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and leave the majority of the lanes to general adult swim. Councillor Cutler specified that the City has never reduced adult swim time, but has rather allowed children to use a portion of the pool for some of the adult swim time.

The Mayor noted that the Westmount residents on the YMCA Masters team can already swim during this time and even invite their guests, with the exception of anyone acting as a coach.

- **It was agreed** that given the heavy use of the pool, the City will inform the YMCA Masters swim team that it cannot grant the team’s request; however, all Westmount residents on the team can swim during this time and invite their guests, with the exception of anyone acting as a coach.

Councillor Samiotis informed Council that the City has posted several of the studies it has commissioned on its website, referring in particular to the study on the southeast sector planning. She noted that it is clearly indicated that the documents are studies and not plans.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

**THE OPEN DOOR**

The Mayor reported that the Anglican Diocese has sold St. Stephen’s Church. As a result, The Open Door will be moving locations and has expressed its intention to be within six to eight blocks of Cabot Square, most likely to the east. The Diocese will be providing The Open Door with $30,000 to assist its move to its new location. The Open Door has asked whether the City can offer some support, without any specific request for funding. The Mayor noted that the City did not provide a grant this year, as it has done in the past. She expressed her favourability to providing some financial support to assist in The Open Door’s relocation, suggesting $5,000, as past grants have been for $3,000 to $4,000.

Councillor Samiotis informed Council that The Open Door has stated that it will need 50 beds at its new location. Accordingly, it will require a location for which the applicable zoning permits such a use.

Councillor Lulham expressed her openness to granting The Open Door $5,000 to assist in its relocation. Councillor Samiotis proposed for the City to give a minimum of $5,000 to assist in the relocation. Councillor Davis and Councillor Forbes agreed. Councillor Samiotis recommended granting $10,000.
Councillor Cutler expressed his openness to providing a grant to assist in The Open Door’s relocation. However, he recommended presenting it as assistance for the organization to move to a new location where its activities are permitted under the applicable zoning.

Council members discussed the appropriate amount to give to The Open Door.

- **It was agreed** that further to the adoption of the required resolution at the July 4th Regular Sitting, the City will give $8,000 to assist in The Open Door’s relocation to a new site where its activities are permitted under the applicable zoning, which would be the amount of two years’ support. The City did not give a 2017 grant because it did not know where they would be.

**INDOOR POOL USER STUDY**

The Director General informed Council that a user study in relation to the possibility of building an indoor pool was already conducted in March 2010. He noted that a study that incorporates polling can still be carried out. The Director General informed Council that the March 2010 study recommended a ratio of 13,000 residents per public pool. Councillor Lulham noted that the study presented an average ratio of 8,000 residents per public pool in the Island’s municipalities and boroughs, adding that it never advised against the construction of an indoor pool in Westmount.

Councillor Drury seconded Councillor Lulham’s comments as to the March 2010 study never advising against the construction of an indoor pool. He explained that the study aimed to determine if the $40 million budget available to the City at the time would be better allocated to an indoor pool or to a second ice rink. Councillor Drury recommended that, as part of an upcoming user study, private indoor pools and the number of residents served by these pools be considered.

Councillor Lulham suggested considering a partnership with the YMCA or another local body. The City could fund the indoor pool’s construction and the YMCA or other local body could fund its operation. The City would be granted a certain number of hours per week to use the pool. The Mayor, Councillor Drury, and Councillor Davis expressed their interest in this possibility.

- **It was agreed** that this item will be discussed further at the upcoming General Committee meeting. The administration will provide Council with information on any existing examples of partnerships for the operation of indoor pools between municipalities and local organizations.

**DROPBIKE PROPOSAL**

Councillor Cutler reported that further to the decision adopted at the previous General Committee meeting, the City met with the Dropbike representatives, and obtained the comments of Mr. Dan Lambert, President of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, regarding the project. Councillor Cutler explained that in certain areas where BIXI docks are unsuitable, like in Upper Westmount, the City can allow Dropbike to create a
docking zone in such areas to allow only a couple of bicycles. As such, Dropbike can be used as a complementary service to BIXI.

The Director General informed Council that the City would be the first to allow Dropbike to launch its service. He proposed permitting a pilot project of 50 bicycles.

Councillor Lulham expressed her support for the recommendation, noting that the introduction of more bicycles to the bicycle-sharing network would be beneficial to users.

Councillor Lulham inquired as to where locked bicycles are to be left on streets with insufficient poles or bicycle racks. She expressed her concern that in such cases, bicycles will be left against trees. Councillor Davis pointed out that as the rear wheel locks, locked bicycles do not need to be attached to anything. The Director General explained that the City must agree upon the zones in which bicycles can be left locked and can specify that the bicycles cannot be left against trees. Councillor Lulham pointed out that Dropbike’s report indicates that it will deal with repeat offenders, but she recommended that the City strongly emphasize that the bicycles cannot be left against trees if Dropbike wishes for its service to be well-received. Councillor Davis recommended increasing the number of bicycle stands and racks in busy areas.

Confidential items were discussed.

Mme St-Jean explained that with Dropbike the municipality should have no involvement in the program; it simply allows the company to operate within the framework that it sets out. Councillor Drury agreed that the City should have no role in the program’s management, limiting its involvement to setting the rules within which the company is permitted to carry out its business.

Further to Councillor Drury’s inquiry, the Director General confirmed that a Dropbike employee will be managing the relocation of bicycles back to and throughout the City.

The Director General reported that Dropbike is prepared to launch its program upon receiving the City’s approval. He informed Council that cyclists will use the service through a mobile application.

➢ It was agreed that the City will permit the Dropbike program on a trial basis with 50 bicycles for the current bicycling season.

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Flies left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Elisa Gaetano and Mr. Kinan Khatib, to be appointed as Director of Engineering – Public Works and Division Head – Municipal Buildings – Public Works respectively at that night’s Regular Sitting, joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Council members congratulated Ms. Gaetano and Mr. Khatib on their appointments.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 10:06 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

**ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/AMT**

Councillor Samiotis informed Council that Greene Avenue between Dorchester Boulevard and Saint Antoine Street will be closed for one month, during which time the highway overpass will be rebuilt.

She reported that Mr. Auger has replaced Mr. Benoit Hurtubise, Assistant Director General and Director of Hydro Westmount, as the City’s representative on the *Comité de bon voisinage*. She requested that Mr. Auger be instructed to forward the presentations given at the *Comité de bon voisinage*’s meetings to Mr. Sebastian Samuel, Division Head – Communications, in order for the latter to post them on the City’s website.

**COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP**

Communications

Councillor Davis reported that the link to the vote for Prince Albert Square as the Island of Montreal’s *Coup de cœur* patrimonial space has been posted on the City’s website.

**NEW BUSINESS: LES ESCALES DÉCOUVERTES**

Councillor Lulham informed Council that an inaugural event for the new lookout points and granite stumps on Mount Royal will be held on June 10th at 2:00 p.m. She reported that Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre will be present and that Westmount has been invited to send a representative to the event. The Mayor explained that the City need not send a representative given its previous expression of opposition to the project.
ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Theodora Samiotis
Acting Mayor

M° Martin St-Jean
Director of Legal Services and City Clerk