MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON APRIL 4, 2016 AT 5:11 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

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

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 April 4, 2016

It was agreed that the Agenda of the April 4, 2016 meeting of the General Committee of Council be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- St-Léon School (Councillor Samiotis);
- Canada 2017 – Federal Grants (Councillor Lulham);
- Victoria Avenue and Greene Avenue Street Fairs (Councillor Forbes);
- Private Events at the WRC Café (Councillor Davis); and
- Shaar Hashomayim’s Federal Grant Request (Mayor Trent).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on March 7, 2016

The Minutes of the General Committee of Council’s meeting held on March 7, 2016 were adopted with corrections.
Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on March 7, 2016

Director General Deegan reported that the City has delivered its 2016 grants for contracted services to its local community organizations.

Councillor Cutler informed Council that Mr. Sebastian Samuel of Communications is in the process of developing Westmount’s geofilter for Snapchat, a popular mobile application used for picture sharing.

Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in General Committee

Mayor Trent directed Council’s attention to Item 8.1, “Equal Access Employment Program – Adoption of the Implementation Report.” He noted that in its report, the City has selected the option to commit to a “taux global de nomination préférentielle de 50 % pour l’ensemble des groupes visés.” The Mayor pointed out that this is a higher standard than the other options. He inquired as to the effect of this decision.

Councillor Smith explained that the purpose of the report is for the City to seek to increase the number of employees belonging to each group targeted by the Act respecting equal access to employment in public bodies. Practically, this means that if the City is presented with two candidates of equal experience, qualifications, and suitability, and one is a woman, ethnic or visible minority, First Nations, or a handicapped person, it is committing itself to hire the candidate who is a member of one of these targeted groups. She noted that the City is obliged to file the report in question under the Act respecting equal access to employment in public bodies. The Director General confirmed said obligation.

Councillor Smith noted that the report was produced based on data from 2008. Councillor Samiotis agreed that adopting the report based on the given data could create an issue.

It was agreed that Item 8.1, “Equal Access Employment Program – Adoption of the Implementation Report,” will be tabled for a future Council Sitting, as the City’s most recent data for the report is from 2008. Before adopting the report, it must assess the impact of submitting the report based on the existing data or whether new data can be obtained before the City is obliged to file the report. The item will be discussed at the General Committee’s April 18th meeting.

Mayor Trent pointed Council’s attention to Item 15.1, “Call for Public Tenders – Hydro Westmount.” He noted that the City awarded the contract to the higher bidder of the two bids received. He inquired as to whether the other tender did not conform to the specs laid out by the City. Councillor Drury confirmed this to be case.

Councillor Martin directed Council’s attention to Item 12.5, “Call for Public Tenders – Public Works / Purchasing.” He pointed out that the contract includes the lines to be painted on Côte-Saint-Antoine Road and Westmount Avenue for the bicycle path pilot project. He suggested that under “Councillors’ Reports,” Councillor Cutler mention the City’s decision
to keep parking on Côte-Saint-Antoine Road on the north side of the street, with a bicycle lane to be installed to the immediate left of the lane of parked vehicles, designated by two painted lines. Councillor Cutler agreed, adding that he will specify that the only cost associated with this pilot project is the minimal cost of painting the lines.

Mme St-Jean distributed copies of a revised version of Item 16, “Approval of Purchase – Hydro Westmount,” and Item 16.2, “Call for Public Tenders – Hydro Westmount,” in which it is made clear that the quotation has been accepted further to a public call for tenders as opposed to a tender by invitation.

**Council Question Period Follow-up**

The Director General reported to Council that further to Dr. Maureen Kiely’s request for the Public Safety report pertaining to the incident when a resident fell and Urgences-santé did not come to her assistance for five hours following her call, he has obtained said report. Mme St-Jean noted that the document can only be obtained through a formal request under the Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information. Councillor Davis noted that the resident concerned in the report does not want her name made public.

Councillor Lulham joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

The Director General pointed out that the report makes clear that throughout Urgences-santé’s absence, Public Safety provided assistance to the resident in question. The Mayor recommended that under “Councillors’ Reports,” Councillor Cutler inform the public that the report has been consulted and it attests to the five-hour time delay in Urgences-santé’s arrival as well as Public Safety’s role in the situation. Councillor Cutler agreed.

The Mayor suggested that at an upcoming General Committee meeting, Council discuss the possibility of the City re-creating an emergency medical service similar to Côte Saint-Luc’s EMS and to the City of Westmount’s first responder service it had before the merger.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

**GREENE PUBLIC SQUARE SIGNAGE**

Councillor Lulham informed Council that she attended a meeting with Ms. Joanne Poirier, Director of Urban Planning, Mr. Attias, and two representatives from Les 5 Saisons, the store manager and the district manager.

Councillor Lulham distributed two documents providing visual renderings of two possible signs. She explained that one is the City’s initial proposed model and the other is Mr. Attias’ proposed sign that was then amended by the City to include the message on its initial proposed model: “Cet espace est mis à la disposition du public par la Ville de Westmount / This space is offered to the public by the City of Westmount.” Councillor Lulham reported that Mr. Attias did not like the City’s proposed model and is insisting that according to the
agreement established between the parties, he has to agree to the signage that is ultimately selected. Councillor Lulham explained that she informed Mr. Attias that the sign is being installed on the public way and accordingly, the City never obligated itself to obtaining his approval on the signage to be selected. She reported that he proposed placing the sign along the band of trees on De Maisonneuve Boulevard. Councillor Lulham informed Council that she explained that the sign must be placed in a location that will best ensure that individuals will be made aware of Greene Square’s public nature.

Councillor Cutler noted that given the possible interest in providing Wi-Fi in this public space, a Wi-Fi logo can be added on the sign.

- **It was agreed** that the City will proceed with its initial proposed model of signage for Greene Square, in keeping with its style of signage throughout the City. It will place the sign in the location originally proposed, below the stairs, right before the fountain.

In relation to the upcoming item, the Mayor informed Council that as the honorary colonel of the Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) for 14 years, and considering his involvement with the Regiment for the past 27 years, and particularly, his participation on the RMR Foundation’s board of directors, he will not be involved in the discussion and decision.

Mayor Trent left the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

**ROYAL MONTREAL REGIMENT (RMR) – EXPIRY OF EMPHYTEUTIC LEASE**

Mr. St-Jean outlined the RMR’s request to remain in its current location after its emphyteutic lease with the City comes to term in 2024. The Regiment is requesting to either lease or purchase the property. He explained that the RMR is approaching the City eight years prior to the expiration of its lease because if it is required to move, it must begin coordinating this as soon as possible.

Mr. St-Jean explained that under the terms of an emphyteutic lease, the lessee is obligated to erect a construction, in this case, the armoury, of which the lessor gains ownership. Accordingly, the City can take possession of the armoury in 2024 and make it a municipal building if it chooses not to lease or sell the property to the RMR.

Councillor Lulham responded that the City does not need another municipal building. She added that the armoury has a rifle range and other facilities that a municipal building would not need. It would require a significant investment to adapt the building for municipal use. Mr. St-Jean added that the armoury is a large building and its overall condition is somewhat unknown. In addition to possible repairs that may already be needed, the cost of the building’s maintenance should be considered.

Confidential items were discussed.
Councillor Davis and Councillor Lulham spoke favourably regarding the RMR’s contribution to the community.

Councillor Martin recommended selling the property and adding a clause that would ensure that the building cannot be repurposed into a condominium, as the City established with Westmount High School. Additionally, the City would be given the right of first refusal if the RMR wishes to then sell the property.

- **It was agreed** that the City will inform the RMR that it is favourable to the Regiment remaining in its current location, and that it has begun exploring the manner in which this can be accomplished.

- **It was agreed** that Mme St-Jean will ascertain the manner in which the City is to ensure that the property, if the City transfers its ownership, is not repurposed into condominiums. Mme St-Jean will mandate a real estate appraiser to carry out an evaluation of the property’s value.

Mayor Trent returned to the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS: ST LÉON SCHOOL**

The Director General informed Council that he never received a response from the school board regarding the redrawing of the St-Léon’s catchment area.

Councillor Samiotis reported that following St-Léon’s presentation of its request for a possible expansion last spring and the City’s favourable response, requesting more information as to the potential plans, St-Léon presented nothing further for several months. The previous week, a resident informed Councillor Samiotis that for the upcoming school year, St-Léon will be transferring its grade six students to a school in the Sud-Ouest. The following year, it will do the same with its grade five students.

Councillor Samiotis informed Council that Director Poirier refused St-Léon’s 11th hour request for permission to place modular classrooms on its property in order to accommodate more students. She described the modular classrooms as resembling trailers. Councillor Samiotis explained that had this request been presented as a temporary measure until the architectural plan for the expansion was finalized, the City could have considered it.

The Mayor recommended that under “Councillors’ Reports,” Councillor Samiotis give the above presentation as to how this issue progressed. Namely that the City was approached to consider an expansion that would require a zoning change, the City responded favourably requesting more information, and the school never continued the discussion. Additionally, the City is open to the temporary installation of modular classrooms, but these portable classrooms were not presented as a temporary measure. Lastly, half of the
school's population was comprised of Westmount residents in the previous school year. As it is a public school's raison d'être to educate the youth of the community in which it is situated, and a municipality undoubtedly represents a community, the alteration of the school's catchment area, which will reduce the percentage of Westmount residents within the student population, is entirely illogical. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of the Westmount residents who attend St-Léon live south of Sherbrooke Street. Therefore, they walk to school. He noted the ecological impact associated with these students' prospective commutes in light of the catchment area's alteration.

Councillor Samiotis affirmed that she will deliver this report.

- **It was agreed** that the Mayor will write to Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Member of the National Assembly for Westmount – Saint-Louis, copying the representative for the Commission scolaire de Montréal, requesting that the school board consider the possibility of St-Léon's expansion.

Confidential items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS: CANADA 2017 – FEDERAL GRANTS**

Councillor Lulham informed Council of the possibility for the City to obtain funding as part of the federal government's celebration of the 150th anniversary of confederation. She explained that the City's funding request must be for a cultural event that it does not usually hold.

Councillor Drury noted that 2017 will also mark a significant anniversary for Montreal, namely its 375th.

**NEW BUSINESS: VICTORIA AVENUE AND GREENE AVENUE STREET FAIRS**

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Samiotis reported that the group that organizes that Monkland Avenue street festival offered its services for the Greene Avenue's street fair. She explained that this group’s services would not be suitable as it is not the City’s intention to have such a large-scale event for Greene Avenue.

Councillor Forbes informed Council that she met with the merchants involved in the Greene Avenue street fair the previous day. She relayed their request for the entire street to be closed and for the traffic from De Maisonneuve Boulevard to be diverted.

Councillor Lulham recommended that the City close down De Maisonneuve Boulevard to vehicular traffic between Wood Avenue and Olivier Avenue. She noted that while Victoria Avenue has always had place for a “bouncy house” or a stage, the recently created public square on Greene Avenue now offers such space.
Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Drury questioned whether the City should divert traffic from De Maisonneuve Boulevard in order to accommodate the Greene Avenue street fair. Councillor Forbes responded that in previous years, the portion of Greene Avenue to the north of De Maisonneuve Boulevard received significantly more attention than the portion to the south. She affirmed that diverting the traffic from De Maisonneuve Boulevard in order to close down the entire street without traffic on De Maisonneuve Boulevard acting as a barrier is the best way to ensure the event’s success and promote the involvement of all of the participating merchants.

Councillor Davis noted that the Victoria Avenue and Greene Avenue street fairs should not be held on the same weekend.

Councillor Cutler affirmed that the City should do its utmost to support its merchants by ensuring the success of these events.

- **It was agreed** that traffic will be diverted from De Maisonneuve Boulevard for the Greene Avenue Street Fair, closing down the street to vehicular traffic between Wood Avenue and Olivier Avenue.

Confidential items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS: PRIVATE EVENTS AT THE WRC CAFÉ**

Councillor Davis informed Council that the Sports and Recreation banquet will be held on April 20th and that Council members’ expected presence was announced in the invitation letter.

Councillor Davis introduced the item. Mr. Philip Chang, restaurateur at the WRC café, has had difficulty in launching his business. She presented his request for a private event to be held for roughly 30 to 40 people, a 50th birthday party, on a Saturday from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Councillor Lulham recommended that the City refuse the request. She explained that upon the WRC’s construction, the City assured the neighbouring residents that the hockey will end at 11:00 p.m. and noise will be kept to a minimum at night.

Mayor Trent agreed that the City should refuse the request. He referred to the policy he wrote a year and a half ago on the appropriate uses of municipal buildings, namely that as public buildings funded by residents’ taxes, they are to serve strictly public and community-oriented uses.

Councillor Martin agreed, adding that the rent for the café reflects these conditions.
Councillor Samiotis affirmed that Mr. Chang must install more signage directing people at the WRC to the café.

Councillor Cutler recommended that Mr. Chang establish a greater presence with the employees at the WRC. He noted that the guests for the proposed birthday party are welcome to celebrate the occasion at the WRC café; however, not to the exclusion of the public’s presence at the café and not beyond the café’s established opening hours.

- **It was agreed** that Council will adhere to its policy on the appropriate uses of municipal buildings in light of their public nature and refuse Mr. Chang’s request for a private birthday party to be held at the WRC café.

Mr. Patrick Raggo, Director of Public Works, Mr. Robert Talarico, Superintendent of the Fleet and Mechanical Shop (Public Works), and Antonio Migueis, the newly employed Assistant Superintendent of the Fleet and Mechanical Shop, joined the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Council members congratulated Mr. Migueis on his appointment to the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 9:57 p.m. Councillor Martin and Mme St-Jean left the meeting.

Mr. Benoit Hurtubise, Director of Hydro Westmount and Assistant Director General – Infrastructure, joined the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS: SHAAR HASHOMAYIM’S FEDERAL GRANT REQUEST**

The Mayor informed Council of Shaar Hashomayim’s request for a grant from the federal government as part of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of confederacy. He explained that the Shaar must demonstrate support from its community. The synagogue has thus requested that the Mayor express his support for its grant application.

- **It was agreed** that Mayor Trent will express his support for Shaar Hashomayim’s federal grant application in the context of said funds financing the activities described in the synagogue’s request for the Mayor’s support.

**ONGOING ITEM: MTQ / AMT**

Councillor Lulham informed Council that she attended the *Bon voisinarje* meeting held in St-Henri regarding the Turcot project. She noted that Director Hurtubise was present, along with Mr. Dan Lambert, President of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association, pointing out that Mr. Lambert identified himself as such, representing the association’s interests rather than the City’s, and Ms. Patricia Dumais, a Westmount resident. Councillor Lulham noted that Ms. Dumais has not been present at many of the meetings and she will
be stepping down from the committee, creating an opening for a resident from Ward 7. She explained that given the above representation, the City’s interests have not been sufficiently expressed.

Councillor Lulham recommended that the City hold a public meeting for its residents in May as well as another in the fall. She explained that the MTQ must be given the responsibility of responding to the City’s residents’ concerns regarding its project.

Further to Councillor Davis’ inquiry, Councillor Lulham confirmed that the meeting will be open to all residents, and not restricted to those living in Ward 7 and 8. However, she pointed out that the issues under discussion will be the noise and vibrations that will result from the demolition and construction as opposed to the vehicular traffic that the work will create.

Director Hurtubise informed Council that Saint Rémi Street is closed until the end of August. He reported that 4295 de Richelieu Street has been demolished. He informed Council that as of April 17th, the on-ramp to the Ville Marie Expressway from the Champlain Bridge will be closed until 2017. The temporary highway that will be installed will be narrower, but will leave space for the bicycle path. Director Hurtubise warned that the City should expect short-term closures of Greene Avenue and Glen Road on weekends or at night for the construction of this temporary highway.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP

TRAFFIC

Councillor Lulham reported that Stantec’s report will be submitted for Council’s discussion at its upcoming General Committee meeting.

Councillor Smith noted that residents have made use of the email account created to receive their traffic-related concerns. However, the responses to residents’ emails are sent after too long of a delay.

Councillor Samiotis explained that Mr. Jonathan Auger of Public Works is unable to respond to the significant number of emails on his own. Councillor Lulham noted that Mr. Auger is extremely diligent, which results in well-researched and well-founded responses to residents’ concerns. However, he can only respond to so many emails with this approach. She pointed out that with more policies to apply, Mr. Auger will be better equipped to provide residents with responses without having to personally research and decide upon the matter. Councillor Lulham confirmed that Councillor Cutler, Councillor Martin, and her have been developing these policies for the TAC.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARKS

Councillor Lulham informed Council that ping pong tables will be installed in King George Park and in Westmount Park. Concrete tables with chess boards printed on them will be
installed in Westmount Park. Park users will need to bring their own chess pieces. A “mommy and me” swing will be placed in Westmount Park, which allows a parent to sit with his or her baby on a swing facing each other. A swing for handicapped park users will be installed in King George Park and in Westmount Park.

Councillor Lulham reported that the City will now begin to consider the larger structures it may install in its parks.

HYDRO WESTMOUNT

Director Hurtubise reported that the City has not experienced any more power failures. However, work has had to be carried out on its infrastructure.

Director Hurtubise informed Council of his intention to use the results of the study carried out further to the power outages experienced this winter as the guideline for the City’s overall plan for improving its infrastructure.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Director General reported that the intranet is functioning and will be made accessible to employees the following week.

He informed Council that a television screen will be installed in the Public Works employees’ lunchroom, which, as these employees do not have City email accounts, will provide information on a loop that is otherwise sent by email.

Further to Councillor Forbes’ inquiry, the Director General responded that Ms. Maureen Lafrenière of Communications typically manages the City’s press releases.

URBAN PLANNING

Councillor Samiotis sought Council’s opinion as to whether they should form a receiving line to greet those who attend the PAC Centennial Cocktail event, which will be held on April 13th.

- It was agreed that there will be no receiving line at the PAC Centennial Cocktail event. Instead, Council members, as well as the architects present, will wear name tags, and the former will still aim to greet those joining the event, but rather by circulating near the entrance.

ONGOING ITEM: AGGLOMERATION SUMMARY REPORT

Councillor Smith reported to Council on the Agglomeration Council meeting she attended on March 24, 2016.
Councillor Davis reported that Councillor Martin requested she raise the issue of the excessive noise in the room used for yoga, as well as other activities, in the WRC on his behalf. The Director General responded that the City is assessing how it can muffle the compressors causing the noise in that room.

**ABSENCES**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

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Philip A. Cutler                                      Mme Martin St-Jean
Acting Mayor                                          City Clerk