MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON MAY 7, 2018 AT 3:30 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

Chair                  Philip A. Cutler
Mayor                  Christina Smith
Councillors            Anitra Bostock
                        Marina Brzeski
                        Mary Gallery
                        Cynthia Lulham
                        Kathleen Kez
                        Conrad Peart
                        Jeff J. Shamie

Administration        Benoit Hurtubise, Director General (DG)
                        Martin St-Jean, Director of Legal Services and City Clerk

Recording Secretary   Andrew Brownstein

Ms. Kim Colquhoun, Assistant Director of Public Security, joined the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of May 7, 2018

It was agreed that the Agenda of the May 7, 2018 meeting of the GC be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Tree Maintenance – Communication (Mayor Smith);
- Laneway and Sidewalk Cleaning in District 8 (Councillor Kez); and
- Fence Along Prospect Park (Councillor Kez).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

GOOD MORNING PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

Public Security is initiating “Bon matin Westmount / Good Morning Westmount,” a check-in telephone call service for residents aged 65 or older who are living alone. Specifically, as a free service, every morning, the Public Security dispatcher will call a list of seniors who have registered for the program. Participants can inform Public Security of periods during

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.
which they do not need to be called, for example when they are on vacation, and can also request that they call Public Security to check-in if they prefer that to receiving calls. Participants can also provide Public Security with a key to their residence for emergencies.

The telephone calls are expected to require a total of 30 to 60 minutes of the dispatcher’s time, which will be integrated into the dispatcher’s current tasks and schedule, therefore requiring no additional staffing or resources.

Dollard-des-Ormeaux currently offers this service to its seniors. Westmount’s seniors make up 26% of its population.

GC members discussed the possibility of broadening this service to include other vulnerable residents, such as those with physical disabilities.

- It was agreed that Councillor Bostock, in her capacity as Commissioner of Public Security, will write a “Councillor’s Column” in the Westmount Independent publicizing this new service. The service will also be advertised at Family Day, on social media, and by placing communication pamphlets in apartment building lobbies.

Ms. Colquhoun left the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – STAYNER AND WESTMOUNT PARKS

Mr. Robert Talarico, Director of Public Works, and Mr. Nicolas Mory, Superintendent of Arboriculture and Horticulture – Public Works, joined the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Nearly all of the proposed new park equipment for Stayner Park can be used, at least in some capacity, by individuals with physical disabilities. Due to the installation of more modules, the project will be slightly more expensive than originally predicted, as the park’s layout must be rearranged. The base of the playground will be made of fiber core, which is made of the interior fiber of trees and recommended by the Montreal Children’s Hospital as it still absorbs shock during the winter in conditions under which the rubber alternative freezes and becomes very hard and dangerous. While this material is expensive, it is safe and durable.

- It was agreed that the City will proceed with the tendering process that should lead to the installation of the proposed new park equipment in Stayner Park in October, once the playground season has died down.

In response to the high demand for workout equipment in Westmount Park, such equipment is proposed to be installed in Westmount Park on an existing concrete surface where the ping pong table is currently located. It will be installed with a rubber surface and will remain in place year-round, with Public Works clearing the snow around it throughout
the winter. The equipment can be moved fairly easily, which will be helpful if the City carries out a large-scale renovation of the park that modifies its layout.

- It was agreed that the City will proceed with the installation of the proposed new park workout equipment in Westmount Park.

NEW BUSINESS: TREE MAINTENANCE – COMMUNICATION

Mr. Mory distributed copies of “Westmount’s Urban Forest,” a pamphlet that explains the City’s maintenance of its urban forest.

Ultimately, the removal of any tree is preceded by a careful analysis of the risk of allowing that tree to remain in place. When the City believes that a tree should be inspected for its potential removal, it provides neighbouring residents with a copy of an inspection notice. If, further to the inspection, it is determined that the tree must be removed, the City provides neighbouring residents with a copy of a removal notice and then the tree is tagged at its base, identifying it as a tree that is to be removed.

Trees must be removed at the end of their lifespan in order to avoid damage to persons or property. Accordingly, 3% to 5% of trees must be removed each year. This year, 350 trees are scheduled to be removed, most of which are mature trees at the end of their lifespan and some of which are ash trees infested by the emerald ash borer.

Public Works has recently initiated a rotating pruning schedule by which every tree is pruned at least every five years.

- It was agreed that Mr. Mory will provide a public lecture on the City’s approach to maintaining its urban forest. Mr. Mory will prepare a short video, with the help of Mr. Sebastien Samuel, Division Head – Communications, detailing the contents of “Westmount’s Urban Forest” and the City’s specific goals for 2018, to be presented alongside his lecture.

NEW BUSINESS: LANE AND SIDEWALK CLEANING IN DISTRICT 8

Director Talarico confirmed that significant lane and sidewalk cleaning has been carried out in the areas of District 8 that still required it, with several residents expressing their appreciation for the City’s efficient response.

NEW BUSINESS: FENCE ALONG PROSPECT PARK

As the City will be holding a roundtable discussion with Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and the Réseau de transport métropolitain (RTM) regarding the issues relating to the train tracks that border the City to the south, CP’s obligation to maintain its fence along Prospect Park, which is in a very poor state of repair, will be emphasized, and issues relating to noise and the performance of work will be discussed.
Director Talarico and Mr. Mory left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m., at which point, Council, in its capacity as the Demolition Committee, held its Demolition Hearing for the property located at 51 De Lavigne Road. The meeting was reconvened at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Tom Flies, Director of Urban Planning, joined the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

GC AGENDA (Continued)

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of the GC Held on April 16, 2018

The Minutes of the GC’s meeting held on April 16, 2018 were adopted with corrections.

Business Arising from Minutes of April 16, 2018

The City has yet to receive a response from the SAAQ further to its inquiry as to the number of motor vehicles registered by the City’s residents. Based on the City’s parking permit statistics from the past five years, there appears to be no increase in the number of residents’ vehicles.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION (Continued)

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – CHAIR AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Director Flies explained that the PAC is to be made up of architects and urban planners who reside in the City, with the exception of one architect or urban planner who may reside elsewhere. This exception is the result of a private member’s bill from the National Assembly and is unique to the City. However, this non-resident position is currently filled. Accordingly, of the 11 applications received for the two open substitute positions, nine were from residents and could therefore be considered. After a careful selection and interview process, Director Flies recommended the appointment of two candidates as substitute members, pointing out that they are architects, of which the PAC is currently in greater need as compared to urban planners.

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Flies left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 9:30 p.m. M’ St-Jean left the meeting.
UPDATE ON WESTMOUNT MERCHANTS

Mr. Pierre Boudreault, senior consultant and founder of *Artères services et conseils en gestion d’artères commerciales et de centres-villes*, was first granted a mandate to work with the merchants, with the primary goal of organizing and formalizing their merchants’ associations, with which the City can now work to help them take initiative in revitalizing the commercial districts. The City then gave him a second mandate, which includes working with the owners of the commercial buildings as well as with external consultants for developing the branding and signage for the commercial districts. On March 21st, Mr. Boudreault met with the commercial property owners.

A pamphlet is being prepared for distribution to residents on the benefits of shopping locally.

PME MTL, which is funded by the Agglomeration and therefore serves the whole Island, will be working with the City to obtain funding for the merchants’ associations. The City is hoping to obtain $100,000 for the Greene Avenue merchants’ association.

The City will prospectively provide the Greene Avenue and Victoria Village merchants’ associations with $10,000 each, $5,000 of which to be used for an event and the remaining $5,000 to be used for website development.

Mr. Boudreault is working with the merchants to teach them how to use the pay-by-plate parking system to their benefit, for example, by advertising on the mobile application and paying for their customers’ parking for those who spend more than a certain amount.

GC members reviewed the various methods for branding a commercial district, which includes banners on street poles, totems, and banners in windows of vacant commercial units, used for commercial districts on the Island and in other North American cities. Mr. Boudreault is in the process of obtaining consultants’ proposals for the development of the commercial districts’ branding. The branding, and therefore the consultants contracted for this purpose, would prospectively be paid for by the merchants’ association with funding from PME MTL. However, any totems and their installation would be funded by the City, in order to ensure they respect its branding, and would also be maintained by the City. Accordingly, a capital budget would be required for totems.

Confidential items were discussed.

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

The City will survey its residents to determine their preferred community events and activities at said events. Ideally, the survey will be ready to be initiated at Family Day, which will provide many respondents who are interested in community events.

Mr. Mark Wilkins of Mark Wilkins Consulting: Market Research + Strategy, who carried out the surveys for the WRC, the potential indoor pool, and the City’s business arteries, could be hired to prepare the survey and analyze its findings.
Confidential items were discussed.

**ABSENCES**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

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Philip A. Cutler                                      Mme Martin St-Jean
Acting Mayor                                          Director of Legal Services and City Clerk