MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON JUNE 4, 2018 AT 4:32 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 Sandra Avakian, Assistant Director General (ADG), Nicole Dobbie, Assistant Director of Legal Services and Assistant City Clerk
Recording Secretary Andrew Brownstein

Mr. Tom Flies, Director of Urban Planning, joined the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of June 4, 2018

It was agreed that the Agenda of the June 4, 2018 meeting of the GC be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Children’s Square (Councillor Kez); and

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of the GC Held on May 22, 2018

The Minutes of the GC’s meeting held on May 22, 2018 were adopted with corrections.

Business Arising from Minutes of May 22, 2018

The City is working with the clerical leaders of the 13 houses of worship located in Westmount throughout the drafting and finalizing of “Value Statements,” which outline each
house of worship’s historical, architectural, and community value. To date, “Value Statements” have been drafted for 7 of the 13 houses of worship.

GC members discussed the difficulty for many of the houses of worship to fund the maintenance of their buildings. While there is the possibility of obtaining provincial funding for such maintenance, this funding is granted based on a classification process for which most of Westmount’s houses of worship do not qualify. The current system that allow for the properties to be sold after the provincially-funded maintenance is completed is also of concern.

**Council Question Period Follow-up**

GC members discussed Westmount Park Church’s request for the turnaround at the end of De Maisonneuve Boulevard to be widened, which would entail removing land from Westmount Park and a modification of the lots. While large vehicles cannot make a full, uninterrupted U-turn in the turnaround, they can easily and safely complete a three-point turn.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

Confidential items were discussed.

**51 DE LAVIGNE – UPDATE**

Further to the PAC’s re-examination of the permit application for 51 De Lavigne Road, it reiterated its opinion that a demolition permit would be required, detailing the criteria for demolition applicable for the proposed project in the committee’s minutes.

- **It was agreed** that on June 18th, at 5:00 p.m., Council, in its capacity as the Demolition Committee, will continue its Demolition Hearing for the property located at 51 De Lavigne Road.

Director Flies left the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

**DOG RUN SURFACE MATERIAL**

In response to residents’ concerns over the surface material used in the City’s dog runs, namely that their dogs were injured by insects living in the sand, the City contracted the services of Groupe Solroc to test the sand for the presence of harmful insects. Further to its analysis, Groupe Solroc found no evidence of harmful insects.

The City consulted nearby municipalities and boroughs as to the surface material they use in their dog runs and the public’s opinion of the material. Ultimately, there are complaints regarding all of the surfaces, namely that small rocks do not form a suitable surface for
small dogs and grass surfaces quickly turn into mud. In response to concerns of foul smells from the dogs’ urine and dust from the sand in dry conditions, the City will have the park attendant water the sand when the weather is dry. If watering is successful, Engineering will propose to install an automatic sprinkler for 2019 using the water source that supplies the dog watering dish.

**CREATION / REVISION OF COMMITTEES**

The City is in the process of revising several of its advisory committees. Specifically, the committees that are no longer necessary will be eliminated and those that remain will be modified in their organization and role.

Ultimately, their role as advisory committees with no decisional power will be emphasized. Committee members will be named by Council and the committees’ actions must be approved by Council. While CEAC will remain in place, its role will be redefined by Council. Additionally, a technician from Legal Services will record the committees’ meetings’ minutes, which will then be presented to Council.

After these changes have been put into effect for a sufficient period, the City will assess whether a further revision is necessary.

In order to ensure variety in the events and maximize resident involvement by allowing the most residents possible to be involved in planning these events, GC members discussed the possibility of limiting volunteers’ terms on the committees to a maximum of two years. In order to promote a smooth transition between Council mandates and these committee members’ mandates, the latter mandates should begin and end sufficiently before and after new Council mandates.

- **It was agreed** that the City will poll its residents on the types of community events and activities in which they are most interested in participating.

**LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA**

Confidential items were discussed.

- **It was agreed** in principle that at an upcoming Regular Sitting, Council will prospectively adopt a notice of motion for the amendment of By-law 69, “By-law Concerning Parks,” by which smoking will be prohibited in all parks, which includes Greene Square and Prince Albert Square, as defined in Annex A of By-law 69. Additionally, the lookout on Summit Circle will be added to the list of parks under Annex A.

**ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/TURCOT**

Further to complaints from Montreal residents over the closure of Greene Avenue for the remaining duration of the Turcot Project and Montreal’s suggestion to the MTQ for Greene
Avenue to be opened to northbound traffic, the MTQ expressed its intention to discuss this possibility with Westmount.

NEW BUSINESS: CHILDREN'S SQUARE

A gradual demolition of the building located at the corner of Tupper Street and Atwater Avenue will begin on June 11th. As a result, Atwater Avenue will be partially closed for certain periods, which is expected to cause traffic congestion, particularly as it is a truck route.

NEW BUSINESS: PLAN D’ACTION 2018 À L’ÉGARD DES PERSONNES À MOBILITÉ RÉDUITE

➢ It was agreed in principle that at its July 3rd Regular Sitting, Council will prospectively adopt the Plan d’action 2018 à l’égard des personnes à mobilité réduite.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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Philip A. Cutler                   Mme Nicole Dobbie
Acting Mayor                      Assistant Director of Legal Services and
                                  Assistant City Clerk