

January 18 city council meeting highlights

Zatulovsky claims city tree is dangerous, demands removal

BY ISAAC OLSON

Val Zulovsky, resident of 6708 Conklin Rd., told the Côte St. Luc city council that it is time for the tree in front of her house, which sits on municipal land, to come down.

Zulovsky said she has been fighting for the tree's removal for several years, sending registered letters and demands to city officials, but her demands have not been met despite what she says is a safety risk. She said she is concerned the tree will fall on her house or a person. She said the tree damaged her car in 2005 and in 2009 it damaged power lines - meaning she and her husband had to sleep in a hotel for two nights. She said her insurance company has gotten involved.

"I insist on your tree being removed from your property," said Zulovsky. "I would like the tree to be removed because I am not safe in my house."

Acting mayor Dida Berku said the tree is some 65 years old and experts have determined it is safe. Describing it as a "valuable tree," she said the city did trim it, but it also has an obligation to protect it. The



Val Zulovsky addresses the council on January 18.

council, she noted, is not the one that decides to cut a tree. It is up to the director of Public Works to make those types of decisions.

"It's the middle of winter, we have to wait," said Berku. "Maybe we can trim some more branches. There are other options."

Other tree issues

Berku said discussions are going well



Acting mayor Dida Berku answers questions on January 18.

with Hydro-Québec in regards to the planned removal of backyard trees along Krieghoff, Brandeis and Marc Chagall avenues where the power company has overhead transmission lines.

"We're in progress and we've developed a kind of protocol," said Berku. "And it's going to be looked at on a case-by-case basis."

Brownstein reminds residents of upcoming winter activities

Councillor Mitchell Brownstein reminded residents that annual winter carnival is coming to Pierre Elliot Trudeau Park on February 21 and the annual Valentine Dance will be on February 13.

City spending

Council authorized a loan of \$580,000 for repairs and renovations to the West-

minster underpass and its related infrastructure. Council authorized a \$417,000 loan to prepare the plans and specifications for various capital expenditure projects. Council authorized an \$840,000 loan for the purchase of heavy vehicles, trucks and heavy vehicle equipment. Council authorized a \$403,000 loan for the purchase of vehicles.

Required resolution meets opposition

As it does every year, there was opposition and reluctance among councillors when it comes to the city paying its Montreal Metropolitan Community invoice of \$502,267.12 in two installments in 2016. This is a provincially mandated expense that councillors Ruth Kovac and Glenn Nashen voted against. Others voted it for it because it is required and not paying can lead to interest penalties.

"In moving this, I do so grudgingly, reluctantly and with regret," said Councillor Steven Erdelyi, noting there is an approximate \$25,000 increase over last year. "However, we must pay this because, if we do not, we will incur fines. I hope that someday we won't have to do this."

Councillor Kovac said this invoice earns the city "a couple of glossy reports that are really quite useless for us." Nashen called it an "obscene amount" in this day and age, and there are better ways to stimulate economic development.

He suggested that the council move a motion this year that explains the council's stance on the issue.

Council unanimously opposes any changes to D'Arcy McGee riding boundary lines

BY ISAAC OLSON

On January 18, the Côte St. Luc city council unanimously passed a resolution opposing the provincially proposed changes to the area's electoral riding boundary lines. The city is in the D'Arcy McGee riding, which currently encompasses Côte St. Luc, Hampstead, a small portion of northern NDG and the area of Snowdon between Hampstead and the Decarie expressway.

"As you know, on a regular basis, [Quebec's] Electoral Commission must make changes to electoral boundaries and now, in their wisdom, they have decided to make some major changes that even the MNA is opposed to," began acting mayor Dida Berku, noting similar resolutions passed in neighbouring Montreal bor-

oughs. The commission is proposing that Outremont and Mount Royal be merged into one provincial riding.

Berku noted the change would put a section of Outremont, largely populated with Hasidic Jews, in the Mercier riding, which is currently represented by Amir Khadir, a member of the Québec Solidaire party. It would also carve out a section of a part of Mount Royal riding, adding it to the D'Arcy-McGee riding.

The council's resolution highlights the fact that electoral boundaries must ensure equitable representation throughout the ridings and the changes would "compromise the electoral influence of Quebec's English-speaking community." Changing these boundaries, the resolution states, would "dilute the distinct character of the sociologi-

continued on p. 15

Mount Royal Roofing

All types of roofs and brickwork
(514) 572-4375 - (450) 687-0094

mountroyalroofing@gmail.com

Ron Edwards Sr. & Ron Edwards Jr.

Types of Roofs

Asphalt Shingles
Tar & Gravel
Elastomar
Copings & Flashings

Brick & Cement

Rebuild Walls & Chimneys
Tuck Pointing
Foundation Repairs
Window Sills

All Work Guaranteed
Serving NDG for 50 years

