

No referendum for Griffith-McConnell project

BY ISAAC OLSON

The rezoning for the Griffith-McConnell Residence on Parkhaven Ave. will go ahead as requested by developers as not enough residents signed a register to force a referendum. On August 29, 21 of the required 83 residents signed the register.

The register was opened for 10 hours, giving residents a chance to sign in official opposition to the rezoning by-law that will allow the site to be turned into townhouses and a condominium tower. Were 83 signatures collected, the proposed by-law change would have gone to referendum.

The site has long been zoned for institutional use and while there were enough opposing residents from neighbouring zones to open a register on the subject, there were not enough to shift the council's unanimous vote to make the property residential.

"I personally went door to door to speak with those residents facing and backing

on to the site back in early July," writes Councillor Glenn Nashen on his blog. "The vast majority agreed with the rezoning proposal. Most felt that their property values would increase with townhouses in the \$500,000+ range."

Councillor Ruth Kovac had similar sentiments. For the most part, she said, neighbours see the advantage to having a "beautiful new development" versus having a "who knows what type of institution" coming to the property. Or, she said, the property might have stayed the way it was, abandoned and unused. Kovac said that she never had the sense that there was an overwhelming opposition to the project.

Many of those concerned, she said, were satisfied with the changes the city made to the project and didn't show up at the public meetings to voice opposition and did not sign the register.

"I think it is a win-win for everyone — for the city, the neighbourhood, the aquatic centre and perhaps the new school," said Kovac in a phone interview.

CSL tries to 'SNAG' youngsters into golf

BY ISAAC OLSON

Although the participation level so far has been less than expected, Côte St. Luc officials are not giving up on a golf-like program designed to teach children the fundamentals of the sport.

Young golfers, from grades three to six, use special clubs to hit a Velcro-coated ball to a Velcro-coated target that catches the ball. The US-based company behind this equipment is called Starting New At Golf (SNAG) and, in a joint initiative with Hampstead, Côte St. Luc bought the equipment needed to teach children how to play golf in both indoor and outdoor sessions, according to Brad Horner, section manager of athletics and arena programs.

"We're offering six-week sessions," said Horner, noting the current session started on September 9 and another will begin in October. "We bought enough equipment to get it off the ground and

depending on how it grows, we may have to buy some more."

Horner said this activity, run by experienced golfers, is a chance for younger children to learn golf without actually hitting the green. If SNAG attracts enough participants, Horner said the city will also offer intermediate levels, but beyond this program, Côte St. Luc does not have any golf programs for children. While there is a course within the city, he said there isn't much affiliation with Meadowbrook.

Undeterred by the lack of participation in the first session offered earlier in the year, officials are pushing forward with the program as, Horner said, it is a great way for kids to learn golf. "Hopefully, with SNAG, the kids will develop a love for the game and take that love to a higher level at an actual golf course," said Horner, noting interested parents can contact the sports and recreation department for more information. There is a video explanation on the city's website.

Citizens can track progress of repairs SeeClickFix app launched in CSL

BY ISAAC OLSON

Côte St. Luc is now the first city in Quebec to have a public works app — giving citizens the power to report public infrastructure issues and then follow that report until it is repaired by the city.

"We had the developer make the app bilingual just for us," said Councillor Steven Erdelyi, noting the free app, called SeeClickFix, is available across all devices ranging from iPhone and Blackberry to Android and computers.

"This is another way for our citizens to report issues like a burnt-out street light, graffiti or a problem with park equipment."

To download the app, residents can access their device's "app store," such as Google Play or Blackberry World, and search for SeeClickFix. The city pays \$6,000 a year for the use of the SeeClickFix software licence and customer support, he said.

Once they have the app, citizens can take a photo of the problem with their phone or digital camera and upload it to the app with a report, Erdelyi explained.

The report, which allows residents to categorize and describe an issue, can be filed anonymously, and goes to the Public Works department and, if a person reports the issue while logged in, they receive updates on the repair.

"If citizens report an issue anonymously, they won't get updates on the repair, but they can track it on the internet," said Erdelyi, noting a soft launch in August has already garnered 76 reported issues. "The plan is to do a full launch in September."

Users can also go to a digital map and look to see what issues have been reported.

"We'll try to prioritize the reports as much as possible," said Erdelyi. "I have been using it myself and I have reported quite a few things. It's very easy to use."

Two cars stolen in Côte St. Luc



POLICE REPORT STATION 9

The Police Report is intended to inform readers of recent police activity in the community. The articles are written from information taken from police reports and given to the reporter by a Station 9 constable.

Two cars parked in Côte St. Luc were stolen so far this month, with one being taken straight out of a driveway after a thief or thieves broke into the home and while stealing valuables, found the car's keys.

On August 8, a home on Korczak Cres. was broken into while the homeowners were out of town, according to Station 9 constable Vincent DeAngelis.

The 15-year-old son, who was staying with his grandmother, visited the house

and discovered the front door ajar. The garage door, said DeAngelis, was also open and the car, a black, 2009 Chevy Malibu, was missing from the driveway. The car, he noted, wasn't in the garage.

Inside the house, it was discovered, the televisions, computer monitors, laptops and more were stolen, and the house was thoroughly searched by the suspect(s), said DeAngelis.

Along with the car, the thieves stole thousands of dollars worth of valuables.

Car stolen from shopping centre

On August 13, a white Ford Taurus was stolen from the Côte St. Luc Shopping Centre parking lot between the hours of 9:30 am and 5:30 pm.

The victim, a 20-year-old male, parked the car legally in the parking lot, said DeAngelis, and that rules out the possibility that it was legally towed away but, at this point, there are no suspects or leads.

—Isaac Olson