MOTION REGARDING PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR PLANS FOR THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL PROJECT 2019-03-28

Submitted for: March 28, 2019

WHEREAS, McGill University is launching public consultation within the University community on the Master Plan;

WHEREAS, the Milton Parc Citizens’ Committee (MPCC) received public consultation for the project in 2017;

WHEREAS, the MPCC wishes to receive further consultation on the project;

WHEREAS, the MPCC has outlined their requests in an email (Appendix A);

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Society’s Legislative Council endorse the MPCC’s ask for consultation on the Royal Victoria Hospital project.

Moved By:
Tre Mansdoerfer, President
Bryan Buraga, Senate Caucus Representative
Maxence Frenette, Engineering Representative
The Royal Victoria Hospital is a heritage site of extraordinary significance due to both its history, its architecture, and its location on the slopes of the Mont-Royal. Given that this former public healthcare institution is being donated to McGill University, in addition to a donation of $37 million of public money from the provincial government, we hope that its future be conceived of in a way that also involves and serves the public. We recognise that there is considerable potential to turn the use of the site into innovative and even inspirational social purposes, especially given that Donald Smith and St George Stephen’s original condition in creating the hospital was that its land and buildings must only ever be used for healing.

We note that McGill University organised an invitation-only public consultation on May 8, 2017 at which the late Lucia Kowaluk OC CQ, Dimitri Roussopoulos, and Julien Gravel Tremblay (then SSMU Community Affairs Commissioner) participated. There, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University, Suzanne Fortier, stressed the importance of involving the local community and respecting their concerns in the future plans for the site.

Since this 2017 public consultation, we eagerly await clear news about McGill’s proposed use of the site and an invitation to involve the local community (including local residents and even students, university staff, and the wider public) in the development of such plans.

As we recognise that public transparency, democratic accountability, and community involvement is essential for the healthy functioning of our neighbourhood, our city, and our society, we as the citizens of the Milton Parc neighbourhood would therefore like more detailed information about the nature of McGill’s plans and an opportunity for us to contribute to the development of plans for the site.

More specifically, we would like to invite a representative of the McGill administration to give a presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the MPCC, on Thursday April 28th 2019, 7pm, in the ARMP Community Centre in Galeries du Parc (3580 Jeanne Mance). Following this, we ask that McGill University follow up by organizing a public consultation to allow citizens living in the Milton Parc neighbourhood and beyond to democratically co-create a vision for the site.

Dimitri Roussopoulos
President of the Milton Parc Citizens’ Committee (CCMP-MPCC)