

## 2024 Administrative Report to the Membership

### North End Business Improvement Zone

#### Projects

Holiday Lights: We will be installing 50 holiday lights this year, 25 of the newly purchased stars and 25 of the older hanging ribbon/star pole mounts. The hanging ribbon stars will be replaced in 2025 with new lights (designs are currently being considered).

Bicycle Racks: We still have in excess of \$5,000.00 from the Active Transportation Grant (received from the City in 2021) for repair/replacement and additional bicycle racks. Funds will be utilized as needed.

Hanging Baskets: Again this year, the BIZ hung and maintained 60 hanging baskets in the Zone. The board wishes the project to continue and thus we have placed our order with the greenhouse. Two of the hanging baskets were stolen this year and we would like to express our thanks to Councilor Eadie for the donation of 2 replacement basket sets from Selkirk BIZ surplus. The baskets were particularly fine this year, due to consistent watering and fertilization. We received many compliments, including from other Business Improvement Zones.

BobCat: The unit is paid in full and operating very well. Continued costs are insurance (year round) and seasonal maintenance and gas.

Dual Stream Bins (Garbage/Recycling): City pick up for these bins and the aggregate bins is Tuesday, weekly. The recycling portion continues to be a challenge as are overflowing bins in general. 2 bins were lost to fires and have not been replaced as of yet.

Transit Shack Maintenance: The City of Winnipeg Transit Department made regular sweeps of the area, cleaning and repairing the shacks. Due to safety issues this was not a UGT task, except for cleanup outside the shacks. BIZ monthly audits indicate that many shacks with missing glass have not been repaired; however this has resulted in less alternate shelter use of the shacks.

Graffiti Partnership / Street Neat Team: We have continued our partnership with the West End BIZ. Due to ongoing staffing shortages experienced by West End BIZ, and a significant increase in graffiti city wide, there continues to be delays in removal. Alternatively, BIZ members can contact 311 and report it directly. We will continue to do monthly audits and report/forward any requests our members have. Please note that we require a waiver on file for the member business requesting the removal. You may choose either a two year or an unlimited term. The waivers are available on the North

End BIZ website, or you can contact us and we can email a PDF copy to you.

### **Summer Staff**

Urban Green Team: The BIZ received a significant decrease in funding from the Province for this summer employment program. Due to the nature and safety of the area, we also paid above minimum wage to attract and retain workers. Consideration to not apply for UGT funding in 2025, and replace with hiring part time mature staff for watering only. Safety continues to be a challenge for youth working in the area. In 2024 we did hire 3 full time workers (Cole, Liam and Musaka) and have included some pictures with this report.

### Community Partner Updates

UNF Hall, 935 Main Street: The UNF Hall continues to be a hub for Ukrainian immigrants to access a variety of programs and services, from cultural and spiritual to coordinating housing, education, employment and necessities. Kalayna moved into the UNF building once Access Credit Union completed their merger with Carpathia Credit Union. There are several North End BIZ members who have, or are currently employing new Ukrainian immigrants.

Mayor's BIZ Awards: The North End BIZ nominated UNF for the 2024 Mayor's BIZ Awards. It was a wonderful event and you can view the write up and pictures on the North End BIZ Website [www.northendbiz.com](http://www.northendbiz.com)

Storefront Enhancement Grants (Province of Manitoba): The North End BIZ continued to work with the North End Community Renewal Corporation to advocate and administer this program. Funding of \$60,000.00 was received for 2024 and the focus was on safety improvements and new businesses. *The committee was successful in lobbying the Province to increase the grants to \$5000.00 per recipient.*

***Safety and Crime continues to be the number one priority of our members. The Board has pressed on advocating for increased police presence in the area, in the form of ongoing beat/community and patrol officers. With the announcement in early Spring of a safe injection site, and consideration of location on north main, the North End BIZ board wrote to all levels of government; and met with several representatives, to express our disapproval of a safe injection site within our Zone. Thank you to MP Kevin Lamoureux and Councilor Eadie for your support.***

### **Housekeeping and Finances**

Board Meetings: Our board meetings were compliant with City of Winnipeg BIZ bylaws, and monthly progress reports were sent to the board over the summer months.

Financial Statements and Audit: Quarterly Financial statements (QuickBooks) are provided to the Board, along with monthly bank statements. Due to significant increases in Audit costs, the Board is exploring other Auditors for the 2025 Audit.

Loss of Last Bank: Access Credit Union (formerly Carpathia) has announced that they will be closing the 952 Main Street Branch in mid December. There are no financial institutions in the North End BIZ left. Formerly there were RBC, CIBC, TD Bank and Carpathia Credit Union within our Zone. The BIZ has contacted the media regarding this exodus and financial vacuum left.

ARV: We have experienced some stabilization in our Annual Rental Value, post pandemic, yet we continue to experience a decrease in businesses. Over the past 12 years the North End BIZ has lost 40 percents of its members.

Call for New Board Members: The board continues to be challenged in increasing the amount of board members and is calling out for new members to join the Board. There is a nomination form posted online and additionally a paper form as part of the AGM package delivered.

The North End BIZ Board of Directors continues to be committed to supporting a healthy and vibrant business community and moving its projects forward. I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Directors for their continued support and assistance.

*Best Regards,*

*Astrid Lichti*

*Administrator, North End Business Improvement Zone*