

November 2023

## Letter from the President

My fellow North End BIZ Members,

What a year this has been! While there seemed to be more challenges and obstacles this year, many great things were still achieved. As always, I want to thank the board for their dedication and their time. We all know that as business owners we put in long hours. Then, to sit at a board meeting for a couple more hours makes for an even longer day. Mostly I, along with the other board members, would like to thank Astrid for her dedication and all her hard work. These projects could not be done without her hours of hard work. While it is the board that decides which of the projects will be done, it is Astrid that turns our visions into reality.

While it is easy to focus on the negatives, there were many positive things that happened to our Biz zone. With the recent influx of Ukrainian families and individuals coming to our city some have found employment, through the great work at the UNF Hall, within our Biz zone helping fill those job vacancies that everyone seems to be going through. The problems on the street are still there so we continue working with the Winnipeg Police Service and other other individuals to help advocate for the area.

We had a team of three young adults this year for our Urban Green Team. Two were Ukrainians who recently came to Canada. They all did a fantastic job and worked very hard to keep our Biz zone looking great. From watering the flowers to help them keep looking beautiful, reporting on the graffiti in the area and constantly picking up litter these young adults were out there five days a week.

The board would also like to congratulate Paul Szurlej of Golden Hand Jewellery for being nominated for the 2023 Mayor's Biz Award. Paul and his family have made our Biz zone their home with their commitment of a brand new store in our area.

It looks like our ARV rate has stabilized this year which has allowed us to drop the rate from 1.80 to 1.58. If I am right I believe this is the lowest ARV rate in the City, this levy allowing us to make our Biz zone better.

On a sad note for me, I must step down from the board as my six years are up, as per Biz by-laws. This does not mean that I will still not be involved in the betterment of the area but I must take a year off from the board. I want to thank all board members past and present for their commitment to our Biz zone. I want to thank Ross Eadie, our city councillor and Martin Pasieczka our Biz Liaison officer for the City of Winnipeg for their guidance to our Biz zone. And of course a huge thank you to Astrid. Her commitment and hard work to the Biz have made my time on the board so much easier. This job is a team effort and without everyone's help it would have been so much harder. Lastly, I want to thank all of you, our Biz members, for your dedication to your businesses and the area and to ask you a favour. The board still needs people to be involved to sit on the board. For the most part it is only a one hour commitment in the afternoon for a zoom call. Please consider this. The more people that become involved the better our area will be for everyone.

To sum this up, the board looks forward to the tasks ahead in 2024 and to a great year. We thank you for your continued support and wish you all the best in your businesses as well as your personal lives. We wish everyone health and prosperity in the future for yourself and your family.

All the best,

Keith Horn

President