

Projects Report, 2020

Though 2020 has been a most challenging year, the North End BIZ continued to move forward on current projects and to implement future projects.

We submitted an application for a Capital Streetscape Grant and received \$100,000.00, to be expended in 2021-2022.

Though our City of Winnipeg Operating Grant applications were not approved, we have seen an improvement in transit shack maintenance and aggregate garbage bin pick up.

The BIZ also implemented, through the assistance of the City Public Works Department and the Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association, the installation of 12 dual stream bins (garbage and recycling).

We reported our damaged and missing bicycle racks in early Spring and though assured we would receive funds through Active Transportation to replace them and add new locations, we have recently been informed that this has been delayed.

We submitted and received a Community Grant from Lord Selkirk West Kildonan for \$10,000.00 towards the purchase of a BobCat toolcat to aid us in our hanging basket program and street maintenance.

We received funding from the Provincial Government Urban Green Team for our summer street maintenance program. We were able to hire 2 students for three 7 hour shifts per week from June to September and 1 replacement student for the month of September when 1 student returned to school. We continue to lobby for increased Green Team funding for our BIZ. We implemented our summer hanging basket and our winter holiday lights program, monthly graffiti audits and removal, street maintenance and beautification. Our summer students are asked to submit an essay at the end of the season on their reflections on working for the North End BIZ.

During the first Covid wave we reached out to our membership offering assistance in navigating the Civic, Provincial and Federal Relief programs and update that information on our website. And through the prolongation and fluctuation of Covid, the board met and moved forward the objectives of the BIZ. Yes it has been a difficult year, and yet it was heartening to witness the dedication, support and resiliency that the North End is know for. I feel very proud to be a business owner here and to have the opportunity to work with my community.

Astrid Lichti

Administrator, North End Business Improvement Zone

Urban Green Team, 2020

Yusuf Taguri

I'm a current member of the 2020 Urban Green Team for the North End BIZ. This is my second year working with the BIZ, and I am able to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working in this neighbourhood once again. Walking down Main Street, I received many compliments from pedestrians, ensuring me that I was doing a good job and the community really appreciated the work we were doing. As well, business' such as Cosmopolitan Florists (Astrid/John), the Northern Hotel (Keith) and The Other Guys Head Shop (Kevin) were extremely kind, welcoming and accommodating, allowing us to use the bathroom, providing us with water/snacks and even organized pizza lunches as a "thanks" for the work we were doing. Astrid did an outstanding job ensuring that we felt welcome and safe at work and added to the experience of working with the Green Team.



The tasks we were required to complete this summer included watering of plants, garbage pick-up, needle pick-up, graffiti removal, weed removal, lawn moving, window washing and other miscellaneous tasks. The work load is extremely reasonable and not once this summer did I feel as though I was being "over worked". I worked alongside two other Green Team members, Michael Picklyk, who equally shared tasks and responsibilities with me, making the work load manageable and when he went back to school in Brandon I worked with Aidan. Working with Michael was a great experience, since we have been friends for years, share many interests and sense of humour, it made working enjoyable and allowed me to look forward to going into work the next day rather than dreading it. We were never pressured or required to complete tasks outside of our responsibilities, which allowed us to solely focus on our responsibilities to the North End BIZ to the best of our ability.

Throughout my two years working for the Urban Green Team and the North End BIZ, I have noticed that we are no where near sufficiently equipped with adequate resources and team members that are required to maintain the large Main Street area (in my opinion). This province has somewhat overlooked and neglected the financial needs of the BIZ by allocating very little funds, while other BIZ's of a similar size, were allocated much more. I believe if we had another team member assisting us in our duties,

or could have worked 5 days a week instead of 3, we could have had a more substantial impact on the cleanliness and maintenance of Main Street. I have also noticed many instances (especially in front of the various motels) where garbage bins have overflowed, allowing garbage to fall onto the street, in-turn creating a larger mess on Main Street. I believe that if more garbage bins could be installed, it would create less “hotspots” of litter, making Main Street cleaner and creating less work for the Green Team so that they may focus on completing other tasks at hand.

Aidan Romani

Over the course of the last month, I’ve been working alongside Yusuf helping clean up Main Street. When I first started this job, I expected that we wouldn’t be in the safest part of town and that I’d have to be on guard for suspicious behaviours from the people living here.



I really was quite wrong about the area we are working in. Most people we encountered at work were very appreciative of the job we were doing in their neighbourhood. It is a good feeling knowing you are doing well in a community that can use it. I am also fond of this neighbourhood because it has such good mom and pop shops and so many interesting types of businesses, and on breaks we would check them out.

The BIZ administrator Astrid was very helpful and gave us all the guidance, direction and support we needed. I would definitely recommend or consider working for the North End Biz again, however I do find that we could have been putting in even more work this year, but due to lack of funding we could only work 3 days a week. I believe that had we been out there for even one more day a week it would have been very beneficial for the flower growth, as from shift to shift we could tell they needed to be watered more than 3 days a week. We also would come some days to find massive amounts of garbage flooding the streets, on windy days blowing everywhere.

With watering the flowers, picking up garbage, picking up needles, logging and reporting graffiti, and removing what graffiti we could, logging 311 complaints, weeding, mowing and weed whacking, we found ourselves often behind.

If I were to make changes for the 2021 summer season I would say that increasing the funding to allow for full time positions would be very helpful and beneficial to the North End BIZ.