



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release – Wednesday November 16, 2016

WINNIPEG MB – On Tuesday November 15th, the West End Business Improvement Zone held their Annual General Meeting at X-Cues Café 551 Sargent Avenue. Highlights of last year's BIZ programming, a preview of plans for next year and the 2017 BIZ budget were presented and approved. **Mayor Brian Bowman** who attended and spoke at the event also congratulated the West End BIZ on its recent Award win from BIABC for Economic Development and stated;

“A hallmark of the West End BIZ is the diversity of culture on full display throughout the businesses in the West End and it is that diversity that makes you strong and helps bring you success,” said Mayor Brian Bowman. “Thank you to all the business owners who participate in their local BIZ by serving on a BIZ Board or committee, your feedback is important and valued, and your outstanding volunteer services, programs, and resources make a difference.”

The event was attended by 110 representatives of area businesses and various organizations. City of Winnipeg **Councillor Cindy Gilroy** and **Police Chief Danny Smyth** as well as area **MLA Andrew Swan** also attended.

The 2017 board of directors were elected and presented: Carla Anjos-RBC, Carla Deluca- Delucas, Jeremy Epp-Independent Jewelers, Emerito Guevarra-Jem Insurance, Jon Hunsburger-Old House Revival, George Ingram-Ingram Consulting, Dieter Scheffer-Frank Motors, Manny Singh-Sovereign Construction, Michelle Scott-Bahadoosing-Tropikis, Matt Tombs-Best Price Railing, Martin Trudeau-Belgian Alliance Credit Union, John Unger-Johns Hair Designers, Rennie Zegalski- Capital Commercial Real Estate. Also appointed to the board is City of Winnipeg Councillor Cindy Gilroy and BIZ Liaison Martin Pasieczka.

“The West End’s strength is in its people, says Executive Director Gloria Cardwell-Hoepfner. We are a diverse mosaic of businesses, organizations, individuals and families woven together to create the identity of this truly unique urban neighborhood.”

The West End saw 94 new businesses locate to the area in the last 20 months.

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The West End Business Improvement Zone (West End BIZ) is a non-profit organization committed to working with business and area stakeholders to enhance, promote, advocate for, and support Winnipeg's West End. They are also one of the host partners for the International Downtown Association (IDA) Conference in Winnipeg in 2017

For further information or to arrange interviews or photo opportunities, please contact Joe Kornelsen, Promotion & Development Coordinator or Gloria Cardwell-Hoepfner, Executive Director at 204-954-7900