

Grow Licking County CIC

Board of Directors Meeting
November 13, 2023

Location: City of Pataskala, Police Department Training Room, Pataskala, OH

Present: Tim Bubb, Mike Compton, Jennifer Ellis-Brunn, Erin Grigsby, Brandon Hess, Mark Johns, Jim Layton, Lauren Massie, Jennifer McDonald, Robert Montagnese, Robert O'Neill, Jim Roberts, Joseph Robertson, and GROW staff Alexis Fitzsimmons, Hayley Feightner and Reagan Willison

Excused: Corey Alton and Mark Mauter

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM by Chair Jennifer McDonald.

Mrs. Massie called the roll. Mr. Bubb motioned; seconded by Mr. Montagnese to excuse absent directors. The motion passed.

Mayor Mike Compton provided the welcome on behalf of the City of Pataskala. Mr. Compton and Tim Hickin provided an update on a variety of growth activities in Pataskala.

Chair McDonald welcomed guests, which included: Tim Hickin, City of Pataskala; Duane Flowers, Licking County Commissioner; Jacque Annarino, ODOT; Atrina Good, Licking County Chamber of Commerce; Nita Hanson, Etna Township; Brittany Misner, Village of Hebron; and Mike Jacoby, Bricker & Graydon

The minutes from the September 2023 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Montagnese motioned; seconded by Mr. Layton. The motion passed.

Chair's Report

Ms. McDonald reported on the Grow Licking County Investors Breakfast held in October.

Committee Reports

Finance and Strategy – Ms. Grigsby provided an update on the financial statements and outstanding investor dues (see handouts).

Mr. Johns volunteered to reach out to facilitate a meeting with Mid-Ohio Development Corporation and GROW staff.

Mr. Robertson motioned; seconded by Ms. Grigsby to approve the July 2023, September 2023, and October 2023 financial reports as presented. The motion passed.

Ms. Fitzsimmons reviewed federal IRS forms for this year (see handouts).

Mr. Johns motioned; seconded by Mr. O'Neill to accept the 990 IRS forms for submission by the November 15, 2023 deadline. The motion passed.

Ms. Fitzsimmons provided an overview of the draft 2024 budget (see handout). GROW staff walked the Directors through the 2024 Marketing Budget Breakdown handout. Ms. Fitzsimmons will update the draft expenses to include Infrastructure and Personnel per the discussion.

Mr. O'Neill motioned; seconded by Mr. Hess to approve the 2024 draft budget. The motion passed.

Marketing and LCWorks – Ms. McDonald provided an update on the committee's work. Ms. Wilson will provide a more detailed update.

Infrastructure – Mr. Roberts provided an update on the committee's work. He stated that the last meeting was well-attended. The committee received an update from Linda Nicodemus. The committee received an update regarding the water and waste/GIS map study, and discussed the water improvement district. Granville provided an update as well.

Nomination Committee - Mr. Bubb provided an update on the search committee's work and put forth the following Slate of Officers:

Jennifer McDonald, Chair (2nd year of two-year term)
Joseph Robertson, Vice Chair
Erin Grigsby, Treasurer
Corey Alton, Secretary

Mr. Bubb motioned; seconded by Mr. Compton to approve the Slate of Officers as presented. The motion passed.

Staff Reports

Mrs. Fitzsimmons provided an update on GROW's economic development efforts, including the IlluminateUSA project that has seen recent anti-Chinese protests at City Council meetings and online. Ms. Ellis-Brunn shared a recent successful recruitment event, and reported that the company hired 32 individuals on the spot, with a starting wage of \$25/hr. Mr. Compton shared comments related to a positive and supporting message on behalf of the City of Pataskala. Mr. Bubb expressed that Licking County will most likely continue to see positive and negative impacts due to the political climate, and the County's international partnerships.

GROW staff will be presenting at a local high school and host a business resource booth at upcoming events. She invited the Directors to the ED411 in Columbus in December 2023.

GROW staff attended the last Central Ohio Manufacturing Partnership quarterly meeting and is now a member.

Finally, Ms. Fitzsimmons provided an update on a recent MIST scholarship recipient at C-TEC's Postsecondary Center.

Ms. Feightner provided an update on lead activity and business retention and expansion efforts. Updates included a site and building inventory update (see slideshow).

Mr. Johns suggested that GROW staff request feedback from OneColumbus on existing sites to determine if changes can be made to increase marketability. Ms. Feightner shared that JobsOhio and OneColumbus have participated in a site visit to the existing heavy industrial sites and did not share any negative feedback.

Ms. McDonald questioned the impact of rising interest rates.

Ms. Willison provided an update on social media efforts (see slideshow).

Comments from Citizens

Jacque Annarino, ODOT suggested sending a follow-up survey for those site selector who are provided tours. Ms. Feightner relayed the challenges of getting contact information due to privacy issues and that JobsOhio/OneColumbus do provide feedback when they receive it. Mr. O'Neill supported this idea. Mike Jacoby, Bricker & Graydon, suggested that the survey include questions related to workforce and other areas for comprehensive feedback.

Mr. Johns congratulated the GROW staff on a successful Investors' Breakfast, and for the depth and breadth of what was presented. He commented on low attendance.

Mr. Compton commented on how hard it is to get people to show up. He also commented that he's looking forward to tomorrow's BRE meeting with TechR2.

Mr. Layton announced that the Village of Hebron just passed a pre-annexation agreement.

Mr. O'Neill commented on the new data centers and the resources that they use in regards to consumption should be monitored.

Items for Action

Mr. Johns motioned; seconded by Mr. Montagnese to approve the OhioMeansJobs Licking County BRE contract as presented. The motion passed.

Board meeting 2024 host locations:

Port Authority: January 2024

Heath: March 2024

Monroe Township: May 2024

LMH: July 2024

COTC: September 2024

Mr. Johns motioned; seconded by Mr. Layton to adjourn the meeting at 1:34 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 12:00 PM – TBD

Respectfully submitted, Lauren Massie, Secretary