

Grow Licking County CIC

Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2023

Location: OhioMeansJobs Licking County – 998 E Main Street, Newark, OH 43055

Present: Corey Alton, Jennifer Ellis-Brunn, Mike Compton, Erin Grigsby (12:01PM), Brandon Hess, Mark Johns, James Layton (12:07PM), Lauren Massie, Mark Mauter, Jennifer McDonald, Robert Montagnese, Robert O’Neill, Jim Roberts, Joseph Robertson (12:02PM), and GROW staff Alexis Fitzsimmons, Hayley Feightner and Reagan Willison

Excused: Tim Bubb

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Chair Jennifer McDonald.

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

Mrs. Ellis-Brunn provided the welcome on behalf of the OMJ Licking County. She relayed the services provided through OMJ. She distributed Child Abuse Awareness month information for April 2023, including blue ribbon pins. She encouraged everyone to wear their blue ribbon pins on April 12, 2023.

Chair McDonald welcomed guests, which included: Angela Carnahan, OhioMeansJobs; Artina Good, Licking County Chamber; Kent Mallett, The Newark Advocate; Rick Black; Licking County Commissioner; and Jim Bidigare, Coldwell Banker

The minutes from the January 2023 Board meeting were reviewed. Due to changes needed, the amended minutes will be provided at the next quarterly meeting for approval.

Chair’s Report

No report.

Committee Reports

Finance and Strategy – Mrs. Grigsby presented the financial reports for the months of January and February (see handout). Mrs. Ellis-Brunn motioned, seconded by Mr. Robertson to approve the financial report. Motion passed.

Marketing – Chair McDonald reported increased activity on all social media platforms. She discussed an article on Licking County Industries published on March 1st by Expansion Solutions Magazine. She also reported that herself, Mrs. Fitzsimmons, and Ms. Feightner will be

traveling to San Antonio at the end of March for the Site Selectors Guild Conference. Chair McDonald also reported that additional members are needed for the Marketing Committee.

Infrastructure – Mr. Roberts reported that the committee met on 2/21/23 and most of the Committee’s discussion was focused on the Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Roberts reported that he and GROW staff met with DiPerna advisors for discussion on creating this program, and Ms. Fitzsimmons shared details of this discussion. Chair McDonald asked how the Revolving Loan fund would initially be funded. Mrs. Fitzsimmons responded that the seed money for this program would have to be sought out, but it would be separate from investor funding.

LCWorks – Mrs. Massie reported that the committee met on 2/27/23 and still continues to work on workforce attraction. The committee is working on the videos for the career pathway toolkit (see GROW staff update). She also reported that the billboard campaign for “wehavethejobs.com” has 581 hits to OMJ’s website in the first two months of the year, when there was a total of just under 2,000 hits in 2022. BRE work will be updated by GROW staff.

The Board of Directors had a robust discussion on merging the Licking County Works Committee and the Marketing Committee due to duplicative efforts in marketing workforce opportunities. Mrs. Massie resigned as Committee Chair for the Licking County Works Committee. Mrs. Fitzsimmons stated that staff will send out a poll to members of both committees for a combined meeting time.

Staff Reports

Mrs. Fitzsimmons provided an update on GROW’s economic development efforts which included:

1. Etna Township’s Contract renewal to be voted on at their next meeting
2. City of Pataskala’s renewal to be voted on at next meeting
3. GROW participated in the Licking County Foundation’s meeting with Lark Mallory of the Affordable Housing Trust in Franklin County. Mrs. Fitzsimmons reported that the Trust hopes to expand their organization’s work into a regional footprint, which would be a step in the right direction on housing development in Licking County.
4. Participation in the HNLCPA’s Fly-In tour in May
5. Annual Tax Incentive Review meeting to be held on March 23rd, which is the annual review of tax abatement agreements for the county
6. MIST Scholarship awarded to C-TEC student. The Board of Directors had a robust discussion on the community need for this scholarship and how to solicit funds.
7. GROW staff continues to work with LCATS and the TID in planning the 1st Annual Licking County Infrastructure Luncheon (Vision 2050)

Ms. Feightner provided an update on lead activity and business retention and expansion efforts (see slideshow). GROW staff are targeting 63 companies this year, and has completed nine (9) BRE visits to-date.

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

Items for Action

None.

Comments from Citizens

None.

Mr. Mauter commented on the two GROW Licking County's BRE meetings that he has attended with staff. He stated that the personal touch is still so important. He shared some of the innovative workforce efforts at area companies. He congratulated staff efforts.

Mr. O'Neill motioned; seconded by Mr. Johns to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 8, 2023 at 12:00 PM – C-TEC of Licking County

Respectfully submitted, Lauren Massie, Secretary