

Grow Licking County CIC

Board of Directors Meeting
May 10, 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Present: Corey Alton, John Carlisle, John Fisher, Duane Flowers, Patrick Guanciale, Mark Johns, Jim Layton (12:04 PM), Jim Lenner, Lauren Massie, Jennifer McDonald, Dan McVey, Robert O'Neill, Jim Roberts, Joseph Robertson (12:07 PM), and Stephanie Bosco

Excused: Erin Grigsby

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM by Chair Mark Johns.

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

There were no guests present.

The minutes from the March 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. Mr. Flowers motioned; seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The minutes from the April 2021 special meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. Mr. Layton motioned; seconded by Mr. McVey to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Chair's Report

Chair Johns provided an update on the executive director search. He and Ms. Bosco discussed her transition to interim director to-date.

Mr. Flowers commented on the Commissioners' experience in working with Ms. Bosco so far during the transition and stated that they are pleased with what they are seeing.

Chair Johns provided an update on the search committee's efforts. The committee includes Chair Johns, Ms. McDonald, Mr. Lenner and Mr. McVey. The committee has received a total of six (6) applications. They met last week and eliminated three (3) of them. Chair Johns has communicated to the three (3) eliminated and the three (3) that have been selected for interviews. The interviews will take place in-person on May 17th and 19th at the Licking County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Flowers asked if applications are still being accepted. Chair Johns confirmed that they are still being accepted until the position is filled.

Mr. O'Neill asked if the quality and number of applications meets the committee's expectations. Chair Johns and Mr. Lenner confirmed that they do meet expectations.

Chair Johns discussed whether to hold the July board of directors meeting in-person. Mr. Carlisle confirmed that the Etna garage is open and air conditioned. Ms. Bosco will determine if technology capabilities will allow streaming of Facebook Live.

See Items for Action below

Committee Reports

Finance & Strategy –Mr. Robertson presented February 2021 and March 2021 financials (see handout).

See Items for Action below.

Marketing – Ms. McDonald provided an update on the work of the committee in partnership with Rev Local. They are producing targeted ads to site selectors and can see and are pleased with the companies who are clicking through. The committee is determining ways to capture contact information to communicate with these companies moving forward. The committee is also finalizing the annual report and determining how to disseminate the information since the annual spring investor's meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Infrastructure – Mr. Roberts reported that the committee is in the evaluation stage of reviewing project proposals. He also shared the committee's efforts to coordinate their work with other community entities involved in this work. Mr. Roberts commented on the committee's support of the Thornwood Drive project through a formal letter of support. Chair Johns reminded the board that GROW LC CIC did submit an initial letter of support in 2019 for the project. Mr. Roberts stated that the public presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, at 1:30 PM. He will share the meeting details once he receives them and encouraged one or two directors to also participate. Chair Johns, Mr. Flowers and Mr. Roberts discussed U.S. Congressman Balderson Office's federal funding earmark to support this project and discussed whether the funding will be considered for another project should Newark/local funds be sufficient. Mr. Lenner and Mr. Roberts stated they believed the funds would remain in Congressman Balderson's district. Chair Johns will initiate these discussions with the Congressman's office.

LC Works – Ms. Massie reported that the committee continues to meet bi-monthly with TPMA to drive the second phase of the SkillsGap project forward. The committee is finalizing four industry areas to develop tangible career pathways: Computer Systems, Warehousing Operations, Industrial Maintenance, and Nursing. The committee completed employer input/feedback sessions in April. Next steps include finalizing the tool kit and pathway documents, and then a launch meeting in June.

Director's Report

Ms. Bosco provided an update on lead activity (see handout). She shared that YTD, there have been 33 leads, five (5) site visits to Licking County, and 33 business retention and expansion meetings (see handout).

The board of directors had a robust conversation regarding workforce and housing. Mr. Fisher stated that Licking County unemployment rate is below pre-COVID levels, and that the county's workforce has expanded. Ms. McDonald asked about workforce feedback during BRE visits, and Ms. Bosco responded that feedback includes that companies are hiring, but that they are

considering wage and shift changes to be attractive. Ms. McDonald suggested the LC Works committee consider marketing in areas that are seeing higher unemployment. Mr. Alton asked about housing options and infrastructure concerns. Mr. Lenner agreed that the school funding formula contributes to the issue. Mr. Fisher mentioned a project that OMJ is partially funding to explore middle- and low-income housing options in collaboration with the Housing Coalition.

Comments from Citizens

None.

Items for Action

Mr. Flowers motioned; seconded by Ms. McDonald to return to in-person meetings, starting with the July 2021 GROW CIC board of directors meeting to be held at the Etna Township Garage, 1145 South Street. The motion passed.

Mr. Flowers motioned; seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve the February 2021 financial report as presented. The motion passed.

Mr. Guancia motioned; seconded by Mr. Carlisle to approve the March 2021 financial report as presented. The motion passed.

Mr. O'Neill exited the meeting at 1:25 PM.

Mr. Carlisle motioned; seconded by Mr. McVey, to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 12, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Massie, Secretary