

Grow Licking County CIC

Board of Directors Meeting
May 8, 2023

Location: Monroe Township Complex – 7621 Johnstown-Alexandria Rd, Johnstown, OH 43031

Present: Corey Alton, Tim Bubb, Mike Compton, Brandon Hess, Mark Johns, Lauren Massie, Mark Mauter, Jennifer McDonald, Robert Montagnese, Robert O’Neill, Joseph Robertson, and GROW staff Alexis Fitzsimmons, Hayley Feightner and Reagan Willison

Excused: Jennifer Ellis-Brunn, Erin Grigsby, Jim Layton, Jim Roberts

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.

Mr. Robertson provided the welcome on behalf of Monroe Township.

Chair McDonald welcomed guests, which included: Scott Ryan, Ohio Department of Development; Kent Mallett, The Newark Advocate; Atrina Good, Licking County Chamber of Commerce.

The minutes from the January 2023 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Mauter motioned; seconded by Mr. Hess. The motion passed.

The minutes of the March 2023 meeting were reviewed. Mr. O’Neill motioned; seconded by Mr. Compton. The motion passed.

Chair’s Report

Ms. McDonald provided an update on the site selector’s conference. She suggested that the Board of Directors consider implementing virtual visits, and shared her participation in an elevator pitch session.

Ms. McDonald shared that in the last executive officer’s meeting, it was discussed that the organization and GROW staff should set goals for the next year. Ms. Fitzsimmons is going to draft goals around priorities for the organization for the July meeting. Mr. Montagnese supported this idea to tie goals and statistics together for GROW’s mission. Mr. O’Neill also agreed.

Committee Reports

Finance and Strategy – In Ms. Grigsby’s absence, Mr. Robertson provided an update on the financial statements for the months of March and April (see handout). Commissioner’s rent

allowance is now listed as a balance sheet item and is reflected in March's report. Mr. Hess asked if Credit card payments are accepted. Mrs. Fitzsimmons responded that they are, but GROW does not see a lot of credit card payments. Mr. Robertson presented the Hinkle Report, pointing out the only items that changed was the treatment of the incoming lease (1c in Note 11).

Mr. Alton motioned; seconded by Mr. Mauter to approve the March and April 2023 financial reports as presented. The motion passed.

Marketing and LCWorks – Chair McDonald reported that the Marketing Committee met in April and noted that some new committee members were in attendance. Invenergy's announcement in Expansion Solutions got a lot of views in the first couple of days.

She stated that committee has been considering radio advertising for workforce. Mr. Bubb asked if this was regional or local radio stations. He commented that from a workforce standpoint, it is important to reach beyond the county. Chair McDonald also reminded the Board of the Investor happy hour event on May 24th.

Infrastructure – In Mr. Robert's absence, Ms. Fitzsimmons provided an update on the committee's work, including preparation for the Infrastructure luncheon and ongoing work associated with the Water and Sewer Study. Mrs. Fitzsimmons stated that the luncheon event at the time had 9 sponsors and 220 seat capacity. Staff and the committee continue to work on the revolving loan fund and hope to make a formal request next month to the Licking County Commissioners for seed money.

Staff Reports

Mrs. Fitzsimmons provided an update on GROW's economic development efforts (see slideshow). Updates include:

1. TIRC Meeting – TIRC meeting was held at the end of March. Property owners trying to get information from tenants for the several tabled agreements.
2. Site Selectors guild (see slideshow) – Mrs. Fitzsimmons stated that the purpose of attending the guild was to hear about trends and build relationships. She stated that FDI opportunities have longer decision timeline.

Mr. Bubb asked about penalty for companies that do not fulfill reporting for the TIRC? Mrs. Fitzsimmons responded that we will meet again this year to address tabled items.

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 (12) BRE visits to-date.

Mr. O'Neill exited the meeting at 12:41 PM.

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

Items for Action

None.

Comments from Citizens

None.

Mr. Johns motioned; seconded by Mr. Bubb to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 12:00 PM – Licking Memorial Hospital

Respectfully submitted, Lauren Massie, Secretary