

Grow Licking County CIC

Board of Directors Meeting
July 12, 2021

Location: Etna Township, 81 Liberty Street, Etna, OH 43018

Present: Corey Alton, John Carlisle, John Fisher, Duane Flowers, Erin Grigsby, Patrick Guanciale, Mark Johns, Jim Layton, Lauren Massie, Jennifer McDonald, Dan McVey, Robert O'Neill, Jim Roberts, Joseph Robertson, and Alexis Fitzsimmons

Excused: Jim Lenner

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM by Chair Mark Johns.

Mrs. Massie called the roll. Mr. Roberts motioned; seconded by Mr. Flowers to excuse absent Directors. The motion passed.

Mr. Carlisle welcomed the Board of Directors to Etna.

Chair Johns acknowledged guests that included Kent Mallett, The Newark Advocate.

The minutes from the May 10, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. Mr. Robertson motioned; seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The minutes from the May 26, 2021 special meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. Mr. McVey motioned; seconded by Mr. Carlisle to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The minutes from the June 4, 2021 special meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. Mr. Guanciale motioned; seconded by Ms. Grigsby to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The minutes from the June 16, 2021 special meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. Mr. Flowers motioned; seconded by Mr. Guanciale to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Chair's Report

Chair Johns updated the Board of Directors on the new Executive Director, Alexis Fitzsimmons' first day on July 6, 2021. He shared they he met with her at the GROW office in the morning, then she sat down informally with the Executive Committee for open discussion later that day. He commented that Ms. Fitzsimmons is doing well with the transition.

Committee Reports

Finance & Strategy –Mr. Robertson presented the June Budget vs. Actuals, the June 30, 2021 Financial Statement, the June 2021 Statement of Activity, and the A/R Aging Summary (see handouts).

See Items for Action below.

Marketing – Ms. McDonald did not have an update. She stated that the last committee meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. The committee will meet in August 2021.

Infrastructure – Mr. Roberts reported that the committee continues to consider the infrastructure survey information and pursue alignment with EDA funding opportunities; however, that he hopes to meet soon with Ms. Fitzsimmons to potentially change the focus of the committee so that it can be a viable entity. He relayed information about potential funding availability for Brownfield exposure to counties for \$1M for remediation and \$500,000 for demo and revitalization. He also suggested looking into HB 168 which provides \$250M for water and sewer projects. He requested to potentially work with the County to develop a list of projects. Commissioner Flowers responded that the County is working to prioritize projects for the American Rescue Plan funds and that, perhaps, these items could all be aligned.

LC Works – Ms. Massie presented the toolkit and career pathway documents from phase 2 of the skills gap analysis/needs assessment. The documents detail Licking County-specific wage, job, training data, and career trajectories. The committee worked with TPMA to roll out the materials on June 30th to over 40 company, school and community representatives. Next steps include working with the marketing committee to determine how to utilize the materials and align them to potential videos and other marketing efforts for workforce development. The Board of Directors engaged in in-depth conversation about the importance of these tools and how they could be used in the future.

Director's Report

Ms. Fitzsimmons thanked the Board of Directors for their assistance during her initial days in the new role. She asked for what the Board would like to see in her regular updates and stated that she wanted to have an open discussion about what to include. Suggestions from various Board of Directors included:

- County map of JEDs
- Project updates – leads and feedback
- Information on how Licking County is competing within the Central Ohio marketplace
- Site Selection and Job Trends
- Developer check-off list for process/proposals
- Social media – important; but should be in marketing committee's update
- BRE data and trends

Mr. Carlisle thanked the executive director search committee and asked if there were prospects that should be considered for the Assistant Director role.

Chair Johns stated that he thinks it is important for Ms. Fitzsimmons to play a primary role in that selection, and that the Board should try to target filling this role by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Fisher agreed with the comments and stated that he believes that GROW Licking County CIC has a bright future ahead.

Comments from Citizens

None.

Items for Action

Mr. O'Neill motioned; seconded by Mr. Layton to approve the June 2021 financial report as presented. The motion passed.

Mr. O'Neill motioned; seconded by Mr. Flowers, to adjourn the meeting at 1:09 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM, location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Massie, Secretary