

Grow Licking County CIC

Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2024

Location: COTC – The Reese Center Ballroom

Present: Corey Alton, Tim Bubb, Mike Compton, Amy Dell, Erin Grigsby, Lauren Massie, Jennifer McDonald, Jim Roberts, Robert O'Neill, and GROW staff Alexis Fitzsimmons, and Reagan Willison

Excused: Jennifer Ellis-Brunn, Mark Johns, Robert Montagnese, Joseph Robertson, Mark Mauter, Brandon Hess.

The meeting was called to order at 12:02PM by Chair Jennifer McDonald.

Mr. Alton called the roll. Robert O'Neill motioned; seconded by Ms. Dell to excuse absent directors. The motion passed.

Dr. John Berry provided the welcome on behalf of COTC.

Chair McDonald welcomed guests, which included: Atrina Good, Licking County Chamber of Commerce and Kent Mallett, Newark Advocate.

The minutes from the July 8, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Tim Bubb motioned; seconded by Ms. Dell. The motion passed.

Chair's Report

Chair McDonald – Discussed Executive Director Alexis Fitzsimmons' upcoming annual review. Also asked the board to think about goals for the upcoming year and if they need to change from prior years. Board officer nominations were also discussed for the upcoming November board meeting.

Committee Reports

Finance and Strategy – We are entering our audit cycle with the State Audit. As part of the board, there is a need to attend Fraud Training per the State (8 minute video). Those in attendance took training as a group. Of note, a large share of our A/R for 2024 had been received to date. Financials through June were approved. Motion by Mr. O'Neill and Seconded by Mayor Compton.

Marketing and LC Works – Chair McDonald reported on marketing efforts which included; advertising in Trade & Industry at a cost savings to the organization of \$10K. Alternative

publications are also being pursued. The emerging workforce survey will be coming soon, targeted at plans for after school/career awareness.

Infrastructure – Mr. Roberts indicated there were scheduling conflicts in August, as such there was no meeting. The next meeting date is for October 18, 2024.

Staff Reports

Mrs. Fitzsimmons provided an update on the Economic Development Manager hiring process to date. Both 1st and 2nd round interviews have been completed and we are waiting on references to check out. Anticipate a hire soon.

Mrs. Fitzsimmons provided an update on her trip to Japan. The group met with 5 communities and 16 companies. 8 companies from the Semi-Conductor Industry, 4 from Emerging Technology, 1 with an active project looking in Licking County, 1 with a company currently in Licking County, 1 with EV Supply chain and Intel Japan.

BRE Project Lead update: 10 of 24 BRE meetings held YTD with 60 site leads. Mrs. Fitzsimmons has 4 presentations in Licking County communities upcoming.

Ms. Willison provided an update on Marketing efforts (see slideshow). Ms. Willison shared that a 2025 initiative was to switch to Trade and Industry for advertising along with various website improvements. Ms. Willison also noted that the 2024 Investor breakfast was upcoming on 10/30/24.

Comments from Citizens

Kent Mallet reminded the group that the 20 under 40 nominations were upcoming and asked for submissions by 10/4/24.

Comments from the Board

Mayor Compton had asked for Alexis to come and speak to Pataskala about concerns over power with AEP. AEP was to attend this meeting.

Commissioner Bubb mentioned that they hired a new County Administrator who was to start on 10/7/24. He also mentioned that the County continues to invest in County buildings and properties with the Airport being one. In addition, Licking County is going to be spending the One Ohio Monies relating to drug addiction to help assist families in crisis. We are part of a 7 County Region with \$3 Million to spend.

Next Regular Board of Directors Meeting: November 18, 2024 at 12:00 PM – Pataskala.

Respectfully submitted, Corey Alton, Secretary