

GROW Licking County Community Improvement Corporation

Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 12:00 PM 7/14/2025

Licking Memorial Hospital

1320 W Main St, Newark, OH 43055

Minutes recorded by Amy Dell, Board Secretary

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Chair Robertson

Call to order and roll call by Board Chair Robertson at 12:00 PM, 7/14/2025

Board Chair: Joseph Roberston - P	Mike Compton - P	Robert Montagnese - P
Board Vice Chair: Corey Alton - P	Jennifer Ellis-Brunn - P	
Board Treasurer: Erin Grigsby - P	Brandon Hess - E	Staff:
Board Secretary: Amy Dell - P	Jim Roberts - P	Alexis Fitzsimmons - P
Dr. John Berry - P	Mark Mauter - P	Reaghan Willison - P
Jennifer McDonald - P	Tim Bubb - P	Gabriel Kelvin - P
Robert O'Neill - E	Mark Johns - E	Travis Allen - P

Chair Robertson moved to excuse the absent members, and was seconded by Mike Compton. The absent board members were excused unanimously.

2. Welcome - Robert Montagnese

Robert Montagnese, President and CEO of Licking Memorial Health Systems, welcomed the board.

3. Introduction of Guests - Chair Robertson

Board Chair Robertson welcomed the following members of the public to the meeting:

- **Brittany Misner** - Village of Hebron
- **Aniah Crockett** - Intern, Village of Hebron

4. Approval of Minutes - Chair Robertson

Jennifer Ellis-Brunn moved to approve the minutes of the 5/12/2025 regular board meeting as presented, Robert Montagnese seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Chair Report - Chair Robertson

Chair Robertson did not provide a report.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 - Finance & Fundraising Comm. - Executive Director Fitzsimmons

Executive Director Fitzsimmons presented the financials for the months of May and June, which she commented were in-line with expectations, and expressed that all except one of the outstanding items in the Aging Report are likely collectible. Total equity was presented as \$419,715.32, liabilities at \$15,717.08, with a total liabilities and equity as of June 30th \$435,432.40.

Vice Chair Alton moved to approve the May and June financials, Treasurer Grigsby seconded. The May and June 2025 financials were each approved unanimously.

6.2 - Marketing Committee - Jennifer McDonald

Committee Chair McDonald expressed that the Marketing Committee has not met since the last regular Board meeting, and deferred to Reghan Willison's staff report.

6.3 - Licking County Works Committee - Jennifer Ellis-Brunn

Committee Chair Ellis-Brunn reported that the Licking County Works Committee met on June 25, which discussed multiple projects in process, including review and revision of the career pathways videos. The Childcare Taskforce met on June 26; there is a goal to increase the business voice represented in these meetings. This taskforce is moving forward with planning a childcare summit focused on childcare benefits offered by Licking County employers, tentatively slated for February 2026.

6.4 - Infrastructure Committee - Jim Roberts

Committee Chair Jim Roberts shared that the Infrastructure committee met on June 17, and received an update from LC Transit about new routes, recapped GROW's annual Infrastructure Luncheon, and discussed a potential Economic Development Academy. Committee member Mark Mauter shared notification of receiving a grant for Thornwood Drive improvements that will likely lead to other future developments. Executive Director Fitzsimmons noted the committee is continuing to support the 629 Grant for the Thornwood Corridor.

7. Staff Reports

7.1 - Executive Director Report - Alexis Fitzsimmons

Executive Director Fitzsimmons gave an informative ED101 session on incentives offered to businesses in the state of Ohio, including defining, comparing, and contrasting Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) and Enterprise Zone (EZ) programs. She further shared the list of May and June outreach efforts by GROW staff, highlighting the Jill of All Trades event hosted by the Career Technical Education Center of Licking County, the recent Rickenbacker Airport Freight Alliance Workshop and its related intermodal transportation facilities, the Silicon Heartland Improvements Stakeholder Meeting, and a staff visit from the office of US Senator

Bernie Moreno. She further shared information related to the passing of House Bill 6, and informed the Board that budgeting for 2026 will begin in August so all committees should consider forecasting needs at their next meetings.

A request was made from the Board for Fitzsimmons to provide the most recent CRA report submitted by Intel Corporation.

7.2 - Marketing and Communications Manager - Reagan Willison

Marketing and Communications Manager Willison expressed that Facebook experienced an over 200% jump in impressions related to the newly started “GROWing in Licking County Young Professionals” feature series. She further demonstrated the newly launched Corporation website and gave a tour of its features.

7.3 - Economic Development Manager - Gabriel Kelvin

Economic Development Manager Kelvin shared that the BRE goals for May and June were met. He further shared helping convene the LC Works Committee and Childcare Taskforce, and LC Leads the Way (goal of a comprehensive approach to how L.C. institutions address “soft skills”). Kelvin also reported graduating from the OEDA Basic Economic Development course.

7.4 - Summer Intern - Travis Allen

Summer Economic Development Intern Travis Allen (Otterbein University) gave a presentation on the findings of the Housing Strategy Options Study, expressing various avenues for involvement by the Corporation in developing housing across the price spectrum, if it so chooses during the updating of its strategic plan. The Board gave comments and reached general consensus that staff should further explore the recommended strategies presented.

8. Comments From the Public - Chair Robertson

There were no comments from the public.

9. Executive Session - Chair Robertson

Under ORC 121.22 under Section G-(1), Chair Robertson made a motion to enter Executive Session to review the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual associated with GROW Licking County. Secretary Dell seconded. Unanimously approved to enter Executive Session at 1:23 PM.

During the Executive Session, Dr. Berry left the meeting at 1:39 PM and Jim Roberts left at 1:50 PM.

At 1:50 PM, the remaining members unanimously agreed to exit Executive Session and resume the public meeting, with E.D. Fitzsimmons rejoining the meeting.

10. Items of Action - Chair Robertson

10.1 - Employee Health Benefit Compensation

Chair Robertson shared with E.D. Fitzsimmons the goal of finding a post-tax option for staff health and wellness stipends that fit within the budget; Fitzsimmons stated she will meet with Integrity (bookkeeper) to understand the tax implications to keep the future stipend at least revenue-neutral to employees.

11. Adjournment - Chair Robertson

Chair Robertson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Treasurer Alton seconded. Chair Robertson adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025, at Central Ohio Technical College.