



GROW Licking County Community Improvement Corporation

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – 12:00 PM, 1/12/2026

Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

851 Irving Wick Dr W, Heath, OH 43056

Minutes recorded by Amy Dell, Board Secretary

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to order by Board Chair Alton at noon, 1/12/2026

Roll call by Secretary Dell

<p>Chair: Corey Alton - P Vice Chair: Jennifer Ellis-Brunn - P Treasurer: Erin Grigsby - P Secretary: Amy Dell - P Dr. John Berry – P Tim Bubb - E Mike Compton - P</p>	<p>Brandon Hess – P Mark Johns - P Mark Mauter – P Jennifer McDonald – P Robert Montagnese - P Robert O’Neill - E</p>	<p>Jim Roberts - P Joseph Roberston - E Staff: Cameron Garczyk – P Becca Morlan - P (Intern) Gracie Cribbs - P</p>
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Rob Montagnese moved to excuse the three absent members, seconded by Mike Compton; unanimously approved.

2. Welcome – Treasurer Erin Grisby welcomed everyone and shared a few remarks about the availability of the Port Authority’s co-working space, and mentioned that Rick Platt will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming MLK, Jr. Day Breakfast at Par Excellence Academy.

3. Introduction of Guests – Chair Alton, Treasurer Grigsby, and Brandon Hess • Alton introduced Becca Morlan, GROW’s new Marketing & Administrative Manager, and Gracie Cribbs, GROW intern during January 2026

- Grigsby introduced Ella Piper, Port Authority’s intern from Miami University • Brandon Hess introduced Ian Stacey, intern with Shai-Hess
- Also in attendance were:
 - o Jim Bidigare, Coldwell Banker Realty
 - o David Edelblute, Licking County Administrator
 - o John Enderle, Terracon Consulting
 - o Atrina Good, Licking County Chamber of Commerce
 - o Brittany Misner, Economic & Community Development Director, Village of Hebron

4. Approval of Minutes - Mark Mauter moved to approve the minutes of the 11.10.25

regular board meeting, seconded by Erin Grigsby. Minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Chair Report – Chair Alton reviewed the officers for 2026.

6. Treasurer’s Report - Treasurer Grigsby and E.D. Garczyk The November 2025 Financial Report was provided in the Board packet, and the December 2025 Financial Report and year-end review were provided via email based on the timing of receipt from the vendor. Treasurer Grigsby answered questions and summarized from 2025: which non-payment items were finalized as uncollectable; the savings from personnel vacancies and some marketing line-item adjustments; and the increase in contractual services (legal and marketing). She highlighted that the transition from Integrity to Wilson, Shannon, & Snow (WSS) for bookkeeping services is in-process. E.D. Garczyk will be distributing invoices early this year using a WSS template. Mark Johns moved to approve both financial reports as presented, seconded by Jennifer McDonald; unanimously approved.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 - Finance & Fundraising Committee – E.D. Garczyk

E.D. Garczyk provided a brief report regarding the upcoming plan for the Fundraising Committee, which will be chaired by Rob O’Neill; the first meeting of the year is 2.19.26. He provided an update on the implementation of ACH payments and ideas on how this committee can be helpful with investors, new revenue streams, and investments.

7.2 - Marketing Committee - Jennifer McDonald

Committee Chair McDonald reviewed the Marketing Committee’s next meeting date of 1.21.26, which is not the typical rotation due to a scheduling conflict. She also shared details regarding the upcoming Childcare Forum on February 18, 2026. (GROW is a co-sponsor.) She further reported that a Site-Selection magazine ad was purchased for this month (copies available at the next Board meeting). She invited any marketing staff to begin attending committee meetings, especially from commercial real estate companies.

7.3 - Licking County Works Committee – Jennifer Ellis-Brunn

Vice Chair Ellis-Brunn stated the next meeting is this Thursday, and the cadence will be the 3rd Thursday of odd-numbered months. The committee is combining all related efforts from last year (Childcare Taskforce and “LC Leads the Way” (soft skills initiative)) under a single committee meeting approach. She reviewed the speakers and agenda for the February 18 Childcare Forum. She also mentioned an upcoming “playbook” resource from Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel.

7.4 - Infrastructure Committee - Jim Roberts

Committee Chair Roberts reported that the committee is in a reboot phase; there was a good turnout at the last meeting, and this forum seems to have emerged as the primary opportunity for coordination and planning among infrastructure entities in Licking County. Roberts further mentioned that the committee will revisit the revolving loan fund concept at future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, which is different from the typical rotation. E.D. Garczyk mentioned that the County’s Planning Director, Carson

Combs, has begun attending.

8. Staff Reports

8.1 - Executive Director Report – Cameron Garczyk

E.D. Garczyk reported that the December 11, 2025 Investor Breakfast was a success with over 80 attendees; he made a brief presentation on his 2026 priorities and plans, and noted these slides were shared with investors. The staff will be planning additional investor/partner events in 2026. He will invite a WSS representative to attend a future GROW meeting. He noted he has been appointed to the MORPC Board as one of five representatives from Licking County. Additional information shared included: REsimplifi is the new vendor for property listings on GROW's website; the final 2026 Board and committee meeting schedules are included in today's packet; recap of the tours and events attended since last Board meeting (MPW, Licking County Transit, C-TEC, Licking County Humane Society, Licking Regional Water District, and Denison University; County Commissioners Association Winter Conference; ED 411 - Annual central Ohio economic development summit); his forecast for the next few months, including continued discussion regarding the approach for GROW's next strategic plan and possible alignment with the County's Comprehensive Plan; the goal for 35 BRE visits in 2026 (24 in conjunction with OneColumbus); continuing office reorganization, upgrades, and account management efforts; plan to hire a Denison data analytics intern for spring semester (using grant funds); upcoming speaking engagements at Heath Rotary on January 22 and Silicon Heartland on February 24; and reminders of several events for which Cameron will email registration links (Vorys Economic Development Incentives Conference, Feb. 27 and MORPC State of the Region Luncheon, March 20 (GROW will have a 10-person table). Garczyk also mentioned prep work has begun for the annual TIRC (Tax Incentive Review Council) meeting; the county auditor is taking more of a role in this meeting moving forward. There was a question and related discussion about an existing agreement re. TIRC between GROW and the County Commissioners; David Edelblute stated he would review this matter.

8.2 - Marketing & Administrative Manager Report - Becca Morlan

Manager Morlan shared upcoming marketing and administrative tasks including: website updates; development of monthly newsletter and print materials; social media management and monitoring; completion of expense reports; 2025 annual report publication process. Morlan also reported social media analytics and Trade & Industry Development Ad results.

9. Comments From the Public - Chair Alton

- David Edelblute distributed a one-page information sheet regarding the upcoming Licking County Comprehensive Plan and provided related information about plans to fund the approximate \$465K cost, the principal consultant, and the importance of aligning infrastructure costs to all planned growth. He further mentioned that there will be new County staff beginning within the next month, and shared the names of other Licking County representatives to the MORPC Board.
- Mayor Compton recognized the new GROW staff, and mentioned that the

Pataskala staff who attended the last GROW Board meeting had a positive experience.

10. Items of Action - Chair Alton and E.D. Garczyk

- November and December 2025 Financials were addressed during committee reports.
- Memorial Fund Contribution
 - o A \$500.00 gift was made to COTC's Student Emergency Support Fund in memory of former GROW employee, Gabriel Kelvin. Brandon Hess made a motion to approve this gift, seconded by Erin Grigsby; approved with abstentions by John Berry and Rob Montagnese.

11. Executive Session – Economic Development Project Review

Brandon Hess made a motion to enter Executive Session, Per Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(8) to consider confidential information directly related to the request for economic development assistance, including the protection of the interests of an applicant for such assistance or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with an economic development project, and to consider marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of the applicant, or negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance, all of which to be provided or administered under Chapter 715., 725., 1724., or 1728. or sections 701.07, 3735.67 to 3735.70, 5709.40 to 5709.43, 5709.61 to 5709.69, 5709.73 to 5709.75, or 5709.77 to 5709.81 of the Revised Code, or that involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services directly related to an economic development project. Motion was seconded by Mark Mauter.

A roll call vote was held and all Board Members in attendance affirmed the intention to enter into Executive Session, which began at 1:09 PM and included GROW board and staff. Guests invited to attend Executive Session include: County Administrator David Edelblute. Mike Compton made a motion to exit Executive Session at 1:18 PM, seconded by Mark Johns. Motion was unanimously approved.

12. Adjournment

Immediately after exiting Executive Session, Mark Johns moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Robertson; unanimously approved. Chair Alton adjourned the meeting at 1:18 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Monday, March 9, 2026 at 12:00 PM at the Hebron Municipal Complex, 934 W Main St, Hebron, OH 43025.