



GROW Licking County Community Improvement Corporation

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – 12:00 PM, 3/9/2026

Village of Hebron Municipal Complex

934 W Main St, Hebron, OH 43025

Minutes recorded by Amy Dell, Board Secretary

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Call to order by Board Chair Alton at noon, 3/9/2026

Roll call by Secretary Dell

Chair: Corey Alton - P

Brandon Hess – P

Jim Roberts - P

Vice Chair: Jennifer Ellis-Brunn - P

Mark Johns - P

Joseph Roberston - P

Treasurer: Erin Grigsby - P

Mark Mauter – P

Staff:

Secretary: Amy Dell - P

Jennifer McDonald – P

Cameron Garczyk – P

Dr. John Berry – P

Robert Montagnese - P

Becca Morlan - P

Tim Bubb - P

Robert O’Neill - P

Mike Compton - P

2. Welcome: Mayor Valerie Mockus welcomed everyone and answered a question about Hebron’s developing CIC, called *Hebron Trailblazers CIC: Hard Work, Heart, and Heritage*, and mentioned that Brittany Misner will address more about this. Misner shared a short video about the vision and initial ideas of Hebron’s CIC, and their plans for a July 4th ice cream social celebration of America’s 250-years.

3. Introduction of Guests, Chair Alton

- Caitlin Bowman, Economic & Community Development Assistant, Village of Hebron
- Brittany Misner, Economic & Community Development Director, Village of Hebron
- Dr. Valerie Mockus, Mayor, Village of Hebron
- Aidan Hardesty, Wilson, Shannon & Snow
- Mark Van Buren, candidate for Licking Co. Commissioner

4. Approval of Minutes: Brandon Hess moved to approve the minutes of the 1.12.26 regular board meeting, seconded by Rob Montagnese. Minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Chair Report, Chair Alton

The Childcare Forum was well-attended, and Alton complimented the quality of information provided. In February, Microsoft held groundbreaking events in both Heath and Hebron. The first standalone Fundraising Committee meeting was held in February. And regarding the strategic plan process, Alton called for input in January from a company that indicated it will work with GROW within the available funds; GROW is still accepting other quotes.

6. Treasurer’s Report, Treasurer Grigsby

January 2026 was the first month with Wilson, Shannon & Snow (WSS) providing GROW’s routine accounting (in addition to their previous Form 990 preparation and Auditor of State

compilations). Aidan Hardesty reviewed the presented monthly financial statements and provided an additional illustrative example of accrual vs. modified cash basis for the board's consideration of the future preparation of financial reports. After discussion, Jennifer McDonald moved to approve the January financial report and adopt accrual basis financials with a cash addendum moving forward, seconded by Joseph Robertson. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 - Fundraising Committee, Robert O'Neill

O'Neill reported a positive first meeting on 2.19.26, with three new GROW sponsors secured since that meeting and additional leads being contacted. Additional ideas for long-term funding options were explored, some of which may be bigger than this committee.

7.2 - Marketing Committee, Jennifer McDonald

Committee Chair McDonald was unable to attend the 1.21.26 meeting, so E.D. Garczyk reported. At the January meeting, the committee discussed use of current social media channels and potential revisions; the 2026 marketing plan will be finalized at the April meeting. Garczyk also stated there was approximately \$4,000.00 in proceeds from the Childcare Forum in February that will be contributed to GROW. McDonald mentioned that the committee is interested in adding a few members.

7.3 - Licking County Works Committee, Jennifer Ellis-Brunn

Vice Chair Ellis-Brunn complimented the GROW team on great work being done, and provided a recap of the Childcare Forum. The next committee meeting is March 18, with Matt Allison from LC Transit presenting. Additional upcoming work includes deciding on a vendor for updating GROW videos, and brainstorming next event topics.

7.4 - Infrastructure Committee, Jim Roberts

Committee Chair Roberts reported that the February 24 meeting was attended by approximately 23 people, an indicator that the committee has become an important venue for discussions broadly affecting the county; they continue to have good buy-in around collaborative efforts. The Energy Co-Operative presented at the 2.24.26 meeting, and AEP reps also attended. T.I.D and Matt Hill also presented information. Mark Mauter commented that the 190 data centers in Ohio have a big impact on electric and water needs; Garczyk added there are approximately 40 current or planned data centers within Licking Co.; the conversations about utility and land use are ongoing.

8. Staff Reports

8.1 - Executive Director Report, Cameron Garczyk

E.D. Garczyk reported the following: the 2.18.26 Childcare Forum was a successful event; BRE visits have begun, with 5 completed toward the goal of 35 for 2026; he has begun attending monthly MORPC board meetings; the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) meeting was moved from April to May 20; the Denison Data Analytics internship starts next week, funded by a grant from Licking County Foundation; he is registered for all 2026 OEDA courses to receive Ohio CED certification; he attended both Microsoft groundbreaking events; he has provided three recent letters of support for grant proposals; WSS, Reese Pyle Meyer, and Vorys are the three new GROW sponsors; and, GROW sponsored the Future Business Leaders of America Conference on Feb. 25 and 26. He also provided updates regarding OneColumbus: Jonas

Peterson begins April 7 as new leader; from 2023-2025, 252 total site selection opportunities resulted in 22 site visits in the region. Garczyk will attend multiple upcoming speaking events and conferences over the next few months, in addition to typical meetings. May or June will be the timing for an initial board retreat related to strategic/organizational planning (with a 12-18 month timeline). Upcoming policy updates expected include: Bylaws review, Employee Handbook review, Financial Policy review, Cybersecurity Policy adoption, and a Budget update.

8.2 - Marketing & Administrative Manager Report, Becca Morlan

Manager Morlan reported increased impressions on Facebook and LinkedIn and an increase in followers on both platforms; she attributes some of the growth to sharing of posts by others. Newsletter began in February, and the ongoing cadence will be first Friday of each month; she will be tracking analytic data. An image of the site selection ad was shared, and she provided an overview of her upcoming focus areas and planned advertisements (three different magazines planned throughout 2026).

9. Comments from Citizens, Chair Alton

- Mark Van Buren mentioned the issue of property tax and the likelihood of it being on the ballot this spring

10. Items of Action: None

11. Executive Session: Not needed

12. Other Business: None

13. Adjournment: Tim Bubb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Robertson; unanimously approved. Chair Alton adjourned the meeting at 1:49 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Monday, May 11, 2026 at 12:00 PM, hosted by the Village of Granville at the Bryn Du Carriage House.