

Grow Licking County CIC

Board of Directors Meeting
July 11, 2022

Location: Licking County Memorial Hospital, Newark, OH

Present: Corey Alton, Mike Compton, Duane Flowers, Erin Grigsby, Patrick Guancia, Mark Johns, Jim Layton, Mark Mauter, Jennifer McDonald, Robert O'Neill, Jim Roberts, and GROW staff Alexis Fitzsimmons and Hayley Feightner

Excused: Lauren Massie, John Fisher, Brandon Hess

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

Alexis Fitzsimmons called the roll. Mr. O'Neill motioned; seconded by Joseph Robertson to excuse absent directors. The motion passed.

Chair Johns welcomed guests that included Emily Smith, Director of Ohio Public Affairs for Intel Corporation; Rob Platte, Board Member of SWLCSWD and Jersey Township Administrator; Rob Montaganese, President & CEO of Licking Memorial Health Systems; Veronica Patton, Vice President of Development and Public Relations, Licking Memorial Health Systems; Cindy Webster, Vice President of Financial Services, Licking Memorial Health Systems; and Scott Ryan, Governor's Liaison

Mr. Montaganese welcomed the Board and guests to Licking Memorial Hospital. He stated that Licking Memorial Health Systems provides health care services regionally, but are proud to be Licking County's healthcare system.

Chair Johns thanked Licking Memorial Health Systems for hosting the meeting and for being a strong partner in various communities that make up Licking County. Chair Johns stated that GROW's Board meetings occur every other month, and the public is welcome to attend.

Chair Johns recognized Emily Smith, Intel's first Ohio employee and asked if she had any Intel-related updates.

Ms. Smith thanked the Board for allowing her to participate in the meeting. She stated that Intel began site work on July 1st and there are some noticeable changes already underway. Intel has begun its neighbor outreach program, which keeps neighbors up to date on each phase of construction. Currently the work on site consists of early earth moving and preparing the site for construction. Intel is also working aggressively on talent acquisition.

The minutes from the June 2, 2022 special meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. Mr. Flowers motioned; seconded by Mr. Mauter. The motion passed.

Chair's Report

Chair Johns stated the Bylaws of Grow Licking County require an annual review of the executive director. In the past those reviews had input of the board but were conducted by Executive Committee. Chair Johns asked the Board if they accept that approach for this year's review.

Mr. O'Neill inquired about the format for Board members to provide input on the review. Chair Johns responded that there is no formal format, but a set of questions can be created if the Board chooses. Input can also be provided informally and comment-driven rather than through a survey. The Board agreed that the review will be conducted by the Executive Committee with input by the entire Board provided via email. The deadline for comments is 12:00pm on July 18th. Chair Johns will contact those board members not present.

Committee Reports

Finance & Strategy –Mr. Robertson asked the Directors to review their packet for 90 days of financial reports (see handout). Mr. Robertson has discussed the process and procedures of billing with Ms. Fitzsimmons and mentioned that there is currently no follow-up process once invoices are issued. Mr. Robertson mentioned that it would be helpful to create a standardized email that includes a PDF of invoice to send to investors that have not yet paid as a reminder.

Mr. O'Neill asked if contact information was needed for investors. Ms. Fitzsimmons stated that we do have a contact list, and will reach out if there are any issues with responses. Ms. McDonald recommended that there be a 60-day follow-up after invoices are sent if no response is received.

Mr. Robertson presented the returned audit. On page 19 of the audit (see handout), there is a continued finding of error from 2019. The finding of error is related to improvements needed in the presentation of the financials that applies specifically to non-profit organizations. The issue has been partially corrected, but requires a meeting with Integrity bookkeeping to fully correct issue. Mr. Robertson asked if the Directors have any questions on the audit.

Ms. Grisby asked about the duration of GROW's contract with Julian & Grube. Mr. Robertson stated that he believes this is their final year, but will confirm.

Mr. Flowers motioned; seconded by Mr. Compton to approve the financial reports as presented (see handout). The motion passed.

Marketing – Ms. McDonald reported on a variety of marketing efforts. Filming for the healthcare workforce video began last month. A preview of the Licking County attraction video created in partnership with Grow Licking County, Explore Licking County, and the Licking County Chamber of Commerce was shared. A couple of changes were requested and a final draft should be provided next week. Ms. McDonald stated that she believes the video will be something that Licking County stakeholders will be proud of, and will be able to utilize for a variety of purposes.

Ms. McDonald also reported on an Ad in Expansion magazine in their Biotech section. In addition, Columbus Business First recognized several Licking County leaders, including Alexis Fitzsimmons, Dr. John Berry, David Trautman, and Rick Platt in the CBF Power 100. GROW sponsored an ad recognizing these individuals in the following edition of Columbus Business First.

Ohio Means Jobs and Grow Licking County has been working together on billboard ads in Perry County highlighting our Career Pathways. The first billboard is Healthcare, followed by Manufacturing, IT, and Warehousing/logistics. The ads feature the url for “wehavethejobs.com”, which redirects visitors to the Ohio Means Jobs Licking County job search engine.

Ms. Emily Smith asked when the attraction video would be finished. Ms. McDonald stated that the video should be finished in the next couple of weeks.

Infrastructure – Mr. Roberts reported that the committee met June 21st and is currently focused on two significant activities, which includes the Water and Sewer Study and transportation improvement efforts.

Mr. Roberts reported that the contract with American Structurepoint to work on this study has been signed. He reported that the consultants have started working with community stakeholders as well as water and sewer providers in the county. In June they met with the Licking County ESC to discuss water and sewer needs for Licking County school districts. The next two to three months will consist of data collection.

Mr. Roberts also provided an update on efforts of the Licking County TID & LCATS who are actively pursuing funding for transportation improvements near the Intel facility. GROW will be assisting in this effort through advocacy and letters of support.

The Board of Directors held a robust conversation on transportation needs and efforts in Licking County. Chair Johns emphasized the multi-jurisdictional importance of continuing efforts on improvements to the Thornwood Drive corridor. He stated that this corridor is apt for siting potential suppliers to Intel, and is the fastest connection from I-70 to 16/161. He stated that proactive measures need to be made to source funding for these improvements.

LC Works – Ms. Fitzsimmons provided an update on behalf of Ms. Massie for the Licking County Works Committee. Ms. Fitzsimmons reported that the “wehavethejobs” landing page has received 422 visits since January. She stated that there is a good amount of traffic coming to this site, which is filtered to the Ohio Means Jobs job search engine.

Ms. Fitzsimmons stated that Career Pathways videos are still in production and she expects a draft of the first Healthcare video soon. Additionally, Intel workforce efforts continue with JobsOhio. One Columbus workforce staff is also assisting in developing hiring and training strategies to build a workforce pipeline.

Ms. Fitzsimmons stated that the committee is still considering pursuing a housing study. She will be reaching out to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for support on defining a scope for the study.

Director’s Report

Ms. Fitzsimmons shared several expansion and attraction successes in this quarter. Kroger recently announced an expansion at the Tamarack Dairy Farm facility in Newark. This facility competed against several other states, and this investment secures the permanency of the Licking County facility. Ms. Fitzsimmons congratulated the City of Newark on this announcement.

Ms. Fitzsimmons also reported on the siting of Prudential Cleanroom Services in Southgate Corporation's speculative building on International Drive. This project includes the creation of 80 jobs with great high salaries. Prudential provides laundry services for cleanroom garments, which will help support the operations of several companies in Licking County that have cleanrooms.

In addition, Behr Paint company has announced their new project in Heath on the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority's campus. Their facility will include paint production, warehousing and distribution. Behr held a small ceremony in June for the announcement, and anticipate that they will hold a larger ribbon cutting even as the facility nears constructions. Ms. Fitzsimmons congratulated the City of Heath on the successes of Prudential Cleanroom Services and Behr. The Board discussed incentives related to each of these projects.

Ms. Fitzsimmons also provided an update on Community Preparedness efforts (see presentation). Some of these include outreach with the Licking County Board of Development Disabilities, the Licking County Lions Club, Developer Engagement, the Licking County ESC and more. Ms. Fitzsimmons encouraged Board members to connect companies that can partner with the LC Board of Developmental Disabilities on workforce efforts.

In addition, Ms. Fitzsimmons mentioned that one resume was received for the Marketing and Communications Manager position. Chair Johns stated that he will share the job posting on City of Heath's social media.

Ms. Fitzsimmons also provided a brief regional update regarding numbers on labor force and employment. She stated that as of May 2022, the Columbus metro labor force for the first time surpassed where it was pre-pandemic. She also provided data related to labor demand, housing supply, and rising rent prices (see presentation)

Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Feightner reported on project lead activity in Q1 and Q2 of 2022 (see presentation). So far, Licking County has responded to 65% of project leads. There is an increase in the number of "Mega Project" leads, which Licking County currently does not have sites to submit for as these leads require hundreds of acres of shovel-ready land. Most of the project leads were searching for greenfield sites rather than buildings. She stated that 1/4th of the project leads were EV Automotive or renewable energy leads.

In addition, Ms. Feightner provided an update on Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Visits (see presentation). To date, 4 meetings have been scheduled and 5 meetings have been completed. There are 37 companies on GROW's target list for meetings this year. This excludes New Albany companies, as their economic development department leads BRE efforts for businesses within their jurisdiction. Ms. Feightner will continue to work with the Licking County Works committee on identifying company contacts.

Comments from Citizens

No additional comments were provided from Citizens.

Items for Action

Mr. Flowers motioned; seconded by Mr. Guanciale to approve the March, April, and May 2022 financial reports as presented (see handout). The motion passed.

At 1:28 PM, the Board of Directors entered Executive Session under ORC 121.22 Section G(8) to review confidential information associated with economic development purposes. Ms. Fitzsimmons called roll. All present approved. Ms. Fitzsimmons and Ms. Feightner were invited to stay.

Mr. Flowers motioned, seconded by Mr. Roberts to resume public session at 1:48 PM. Ms. Fitzsimmons called roll. All present approved.

Mr. Flowers motioned; seconded by Mr. Mauter, to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2022 at 12:00 PM – Meeting location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted, Hayley Feightner, Assistant Director