



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Action (IDEA) Implementation Panel
February 9, 2023 Minutes**

The IDEA Implementation Panel met for the Panel’s regularly scheduled session at the New Albany Village Hall, 99 W. Main Street, New Albany, Ohio and was called to order by Panel Chair Dr. Johnson at 7:07 p.m.

Those answering roll call:

Panel Chair Brianna Johnson	Present
Panel Vice-Chair Connor Berry	Present
Panel Secretary Precious Singo	Absent
Panel Member Kirubel Aklilu	Absent
Panel Member Marie Alvarado	Present
Panel Member Eric Duerksen	Present
Panel Member Nwando Olayiwola	Absent
Council Member Marlene Brisk	Absent
Council Member Andrea Wilttrout	Present

Working group members present: Pat Huddle, Dehnie Fong, and Christine McBride.

Staff members present: Abbey Brooks, Community Program Administrator; and Anna van der Zwaag, Planner II.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from December 11, 2022 IDEA Panel meeting.

Panel Member Duerksen stated he was listed as absent but was there and participated.

Planner van der Zwaag stated she would correct that.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any objections to making the requested change.

None were noted.

Panel Member Berry moved to approve the meeting minutes from the December 11, 2022 IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Duerksen and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to approve the meeting minutes.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda.

No additions or corrections to the agenda were noted.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any visitors requesting to speak on items not on tonight’s agenda.

No visitors were present requesting to speak on items not on the agenda.

Business

Planner van der Zwaag stated that at the last meeting the breakout working groups took place as one discussion since the group was smaller, so staff recommends doing that again to have a more productive discussion of the business items.

Panel members concurred.

Dr. Johnson moved to adjourn into working groups at 7:10 p.m. Seconded by Panel Member Berry and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to adjourn into the working group.

Welcome Receptions

Planner van der Zwaag summarized the themes and topics from the working group meetings in 2022, including the goals identified by each working group.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated staff have begun to think about how the welcome receptions become events that people want to attend. She stated staff came up with the idea of “behind the scenes” type of experiences including tours, happy hours, and other engaging activities that give residents an opportunity to see a part of the city they might not have before.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated the Senior Connections group has toured the business park as well as Taylor Farm and really enjoyed those experiences. Something similar, with the opportunity for engagement by community leaders and stakeholders, would be a unique way for residents to engage and learn more about the city. She stated this experiential opportunity would provide more authentic and valuable conversation and opportunities to connect and ask questions of community leaders.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated this is a real and practical way that people can learn about opportunities for them to serve in the community, like joining a board, commission, or panel.

Community Program Administrator Brooks presented four ideas for the year – starting with a tour of the business park and the location of Intel, followed by a Taylor Farm in the fall, Rose Run Park ahead of the winter. Another possible location is a tour of Hinson Amphitheater with community partners. This could be a more traditional reception where different community partners have tables or different offerings available at their tables. She stated there are logistical details to determine, such as how people are signed up for these activities, especially the ones that might be more limited in space.

Community Program Administrator Brooks asked what the Panel thought.

Ms. McBride stated she liked the idea that’s quarterly.

Panel Member Alvarado stated she liked that they would be out and about rather than in a confined building. It gives residents the opportunity to participate without pressure to speak or mingle.

Dr. Johnson asked if could there be some subtle encouragement; loose/not structured if people do want to engage. The great thing is getting to know people and having opportunities that people could opt into so they feel like they’ve walked away with a connection – if they so desire.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated on the bus is a little harder; but sitting next to someone new they would get to know them.

Council Member Wilttrout suggested an ice breaker while on the bus.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated there is lots of interaction on the bus, and things like Taylor Farm will have apple cider and donuts and opportunities for fun and engagement.

Ms. Huddle stated she has done trolley tours; it's the person that is driving or leading or gathering people that makes or breaks the experience; they set the tone. She also suggested a voluntary email list if residents want to get further involved; something to go away with.

Panel Member Duerksen stated he likes the idea of something that draws people in and wonders if there would be a standard quarterly city talk and sharing more information about the city.

Community Program Administrator Brooks answered in the affirmative – any of these things can be done the idea was that there would be people from council and boards/commissions present to do some of that and engage the residents.

Council Member Wilttrout suggested having some sort of traveling book or something that people can take with them to learn about different ways to get involved. She suggested a survey or way to get more information.

Community Program Administrator Brooks suggested that when they register for an event they can indicate if they want more information from certain groups like NAWN or similar.

Planner van der Zwaag stated they could design a handout that people can scan with a QR code.

Dr. Johnson asked what happens if it's really popular and people request tours more frequently

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated this is what they have to consider and might have to make adjustments depending on the number of people who sign up. For instance, for bus tours of the business park, it would be different if only a couple people over capacity sign up compared to if 100 people over capacity sign up. They might have to reconsider how the tour is provided.

Community Program Administrator Brooks asked if they group likes these ideas.

Panel Member Alvarado stated she is supportive. She stated at work when she onboards new people, they ask a lot of questions about finding schools, doctors, hair appointments, activities for children, etc.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated that might be a better fit for the ambassador program so they have a collective list of resources. She stated the New Albany Realtors group has a list they've agreed to make open.

Ms. McBride stated she supports this too. She stated she moved a while ago but still goes to Westerville for a lot of resources. If this information is made available it might help them retain the businesses or bring new business here.

Mr. Duerksen added that he thinks "connection" should be added to the framework and overview map that Planner van der Zwaag put together and showed at the beginning.

Planner van der Zwaag stated she can add that.

Festival

Community Program Administrator Brooks provided an update on the date for the festival – the first weekend that was originally talked about (oct 6/7) - Oktoberfest changed to those dates and the festival shouldn't compete with that. The weekend after is the same day as the parks & rec trunk or treat event and the festival also can't compete with that event.

Panel Members agreed.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated those are the last weekends to use the amphitheater before shuts down for the season, so the other option is September 22/23. That is the same weekend as A&F challenge, but that would be Friday evening and the main bulk of the festival would be Saturday.

Community Program Administrator Brooks recommends moving forward with the September dates with a Friday evening event and a Saturday afternoon festival. She stated if the Panel prefers, they can just do Saturday afternoon festival if they don't want to compete with A&F challenge.

Panel Member Duerkson asked if there was any discussion on trying to overlap something like taking Oktoberfest and utilizing the crowd that's coming in for an IDEA festival.

Council Member Wiltout stated there was no discussion but that it would likely detract from the importance of the festival event.

Community Program Administrator Brooks asked if the working group was okay with the September date with September date?

Panel Members and working group agreed they were okay with those dates.

Community Program Administrator Brooks invited Dr. Johnson to summarize the meeting she had with Planner van der Zwaag regarding the festival ideas.

Dr. Johnson stated they discussed memo written by Community Program Administrator Brooks, which had 3 different options (ABC). She stated they narrowed in on the focused cultural celebration - something that had a theme, fun-filled; but they discussed how to include an intellectual aspect which was important. She stated when she initially saw Friday night and Saturday part - that could be a great way to do it; to have the intellectual component on Friday and more fun, colorful Saturday.

Planner van der Zwaag stated that tied in very well with the conversation staff had with council members.

Council Member Wiltout stated that she agrees with Dr. Johnson on having an intellectual component to the weekend's events.

Panel Member Berry asked if he should approach the Special Olympics about participating.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated that is the next question and asked what the focus of the event should be. She stated, for example, that the focus could be dance, culinary arts, music, or similar themes. She suggested bridging the Friday and Saturday events. She stated everything will be very interactive for both kids and adults.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated there could be food trucks and vendors of all sorts that are either bringing food from a different culture or vendors who are social entrepreneurs.

Staff would recommend not doing visual arts due to other neighboring jurisdictions having larger events and already doing this. There's not a need to compete with that.

Panel Member Duerksen asked if there is food on Friday night too.

Dr. Johnson agreed with that idea.

The working group discussed the themes for the event with the following considerations and points:

- Dance idea is cool. Maybe you don't just limit it to dance but also music. Music comes with that.
- It's a little easier to notice differences, similarities, etc. if we have a very specific focus
- What about rhythm as a theme?
- When you move your body, you become involved; not a spectator; want people to get out of their comfort zone.
- Dancing definitely brings people together.
- Anything can be made interactive.

Ms. Huddle asked about the location of the event and Community Program Administrator Brooks answered that it will likely take place in the amphitheater/school/Rose Run area.

Council Member Wiltout asked if there can be a culinary theme on Friday and dance theme on Saturday.

Community Program Administrator Brooks presented the idea of Sunday Suppers, which Friday night can be modeled after. She stated they've made this concept available; recipes for conversation on the website; moderators at table moving conversation forward. She suggested doing a Friday supper which could include food and have conversation starter questions for whatever the group thinks is best. She stated some of the best conversations start with the question "how do we build a better community together?"

Council Member Wiltout asked about potentially having some lectures on Saturday in the McCoy.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated her general experience tells her people won't want to come if there's a party outside.

Dr. Johnson recommended having a lecture before the food on Friday.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated that is absolutely a possibility. The night could also be topped with a performance of something that makes people think. She asked to circle back to the theme conversation again.

Dr. Johnson reminded the group that there would be food no matter the option; like food trucks. She asked if people just want the food or if there is something more to it.

Panel Member Alvarado stated she wants the history and background about recipes; that would bring her to the culture moment; when they share food, they share their life story.

Ms. McBride agreed. She stated whether its family history or etc. - they're all interconnected; food, music, dance - it's all goes back to a story and history; music, food, family/history; don't want to leave out some of that history and generational past.

Panel Member Duerksen stated he loves the Friday night supper idea. For Saturday, he likes the draw of dance/music food trucks. He isn't sure if it can all be done.

Ms. Huddle suggested the idea of a cultural community cookbook where people could submit recipes online.

Dr. Johnson asked what if the uniting idea is "culture" in and of itself, there are so many aspects.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated she is hearing a theme of storytelling which could work. Storytelling is done through food, dance, and music.

Dr. Johnson stated she likes that idea. It really connects all of these themes.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated cooking classes do sell out at the Heit; they do try to bring in people of different backgrounds. Those are very well attended. There can also be events about telling stories through dance.

The working group agreed that they liked this idea.

Planner van der Zwaag stated, if the group found it appropriate, they can make motions to support these two frameworks once the Panel u reconvenes in Council Chambers.

The working group moved back into Council Chambers to adjourn.

Reconvene & Report Back

Panel Member Dr. Johnson moved to reconvene the IDEA Implementation Panel meeting at 8:32 pm. Seconded by Panel Member Duerksen. All panel members were in favor.

Dr. Johnson asked if there is a motion to approve the welcome reception framework that was provided by staff and discussed tonight.

Panel Member Alvarado moved to approve the welcome reception framework that was provided by staff and discussed tonight. Seconded by Panel Member Duerksen. All panel members were in favor.

Dr. Johnson asked if there is a motion to approve the festival framework as discussed, which is a festival on September 22-23, with the theme of storytelling.

Panel Member Alvarado moved to approve the festival framework as discussed, which is a festival on September 22-23, with the theme of storytelling. Seconded by Panel Member Duerksen. All panel members were in favor.

Other Business

Dr. Johnson asked if there was any other business from staff or panel members.

Planner van der Zwaag asked if any IDEA Panel Members would be interested in hosting a table at the Farmer's Market this summer as an opportunity to advertise these programs.

The Panel agreed that this is a great opportunity.

Planner van der Zwaag stated she will apply for the group and report back dates.

Poll Members for Comment

None.

Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm. All panel members were in favor.

Submitted by Anna van der Zwaag.