



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Action (IDEA) Implementation Panel  
April 13, 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 7:38 p.m.

Those answering roll call:

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

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

Staff members present: Adrienne Joly, Director of Administrative Services; Abbey Brooks, Community Program Administrator; and Anna van der Zwaag, Planner.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the March 9, 2023 IDEA Panel meeting.

None were noted.

Panel Member Dr. Olayiwola moved to approve the meeting minutes from the March 9, 2023 IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Alvarado 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.

Due to time constraints, the Panel will not separate out for breakout sessions.

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**

Director of Administrative Services Joly explained that there are changes made to the festival concept, due to setbacks involving scheduling availability and competition with existing community events. It was likely given the restraints that the festival would not be a success with the date restrictions. Staff are proposing a new festival concept of three celebrations for Juneteenth, Miracle League, and Diwali.

Community Program Administrator Brooks provided additional context to these three celebrations and stated the idea will be to have focus groups that can help provide cultural context for these events.

Council Member Wiltout stated that in the future, her understanding is that Council will remain supportive of a larger community festival celebrating the diversity of the community; however, these smaller celebrations will be a great addition until there is an appropriate date for next year.

Panel Member Dr. Olayiwola asked for clarification if the concept change came from a timing issue or because the panel and staff wanted more events.

Director of Administrative Services Joly stated that it is mainly due to timing and scheduling issues; however, these smaller celebrations will offer a lot to the community.

Panel Member Dr. Olayiwola stated she thought one of the main conversations from the first iteration of IDEA was to bring different cultures together and these smaller celebrations don't seem to do that.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated these will still be large events that bring the community together.

Panel Member Dr. Johnson stated she likes that these are more than one day and occur throughout the year. She asked if there is something that can make the events cohesive and bring them together as well as if education can be included in these things.

Panel Member Dr. Olayiwola stated that with these three separate events, there is a risk of people not going because they don't know what it is or don't care about it in the same way they would a large festival.

Working Group Member Huddle stated it will be important to include information about how this is intended for the whole community.

Other members of the panel and working group agreed.

Panel Member Aklilu asked how the number of people will be determined for the Juneteenth event.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated there are still lots of decisions that need to be made and she will need help determining these details such as venues.

Panel Member Dr. Johnson asked if the event should be indoor or outdoor or if there are already venue ideas.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated that location is up to the Panel but her preference would be indoor to avoid any potential for weather issues.

Members of the Panel agreed.

Panel Member Alvarado stated she has similar concerns that people might not feel like they want to go these things and asked how a good turnout can be planned for.

Panel Member Dr. Olayiwola stated the way it is advertised will be really important.

Community Program Administrator Brooks stated the announcements will tell a story of the IDEA Panel and how these are the events they are putting on; come to learn more about these things. Overall, the messaging is really important and making it cohesive to bring people together rather than separating it apart. People will be reminded that the city is still working towards these initiatives.

Panel Member Dr. Olayiwola asked what is needed for next steps to get the Juneteenth event up and running. She suggested working with SOAR and volunteered to reach out and connect members of SOAR to city staff.

Director of Administrative Services Joly stated that is a great idea and suggested setting up a focus group with SOAR before the next IDEA meeting.

**Other Business**

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

None was noted.

**Poll Members for Comment**

No comments were provided.

Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm. All panel members were in favor.