



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Action (IDEA) Implementation Panel
August 10, 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 7:04 p.m.

Those answering roll call:

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

Working group members present: Pat Huddle and Dr. Sandra Solano.

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

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the June 8, 2023 IDEA Panel meeting.

None were noted.

Dr. Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes from the June 8, 2023 IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Berry 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.

None.

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

Dr. Johnson moved to adjourn into a working group session at 7:06 p.m. Seconded by Panel Member Alvarado. All were in favor and the IDEA Panel moved into a working group session.

Project Updates – Juneteenth, Family Fun Day at Miracle League, NA101

Ms. van der Zwaag provided an update on the New Albany 101 series, which included the summer “appy” hour at the Heit Center in July.

Ms. Brooks provided a summary of the Juneteenth event on June 19 since this was the first meeting since that event took place.

Ms. Brooks provided a summary on the Family Fun Day at Miracle League event.

Ms. van der Zwaag introduced the topic of conversation about establishing priorities for 2024 and encouraging feedback on each of the three project areas the IDEA Panel has been tasked with.

Welcome Receptions

Ms. Alvarado expressed her satisfaction with how the welcome receptions have been going but regretted missing the second event. She emphasized the need for more consistent opportunities for attendance. She also highlighted the positive response to the idea of the business park tour.

Dr. Solano suggested diversifying event dates, including more weekend options, and possibly providing childcare to be more inclusive, especially for parents with kids.

Ms. Huddle expressed disappointment in the turnout numbers for the receptions and raised concerns about how to attract more attendees.

Ms. Brooks expressed contentment with the turnout, comparing it favorably to other events. She noted that ten attendees would be considered great in many places.

Ms. Joly mentioned that a similar event in Dublin didn't have the same turnout, emphasizing the importance of open houses.

Ms. Huddle proposed the idea of "pancakes with Pat" as a family-oriented event.

Ms. Brooks pointed out that the events had been scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings initially.

Ms. Huddle suggested including apples and apple cider at the fall tour of Taylor Farm Park.

Ms. Brooks mentioned the possibility of a "moo train" at the Taylor Farm event and promised to look into it.

Ms. Joly mentioned that Phase II at Taylor Farm is still under construction, and a "moo train" could be considered for future years.

Ms. Alvarado recommended keeping the series but emphasized the need for better awareness to attract more participants.

Ms. Joly discussed the idea of events in Upper Arlington, such as neighbor night out, and suggested partnering with the police for National Night Out, which typically occurs in the summer.

Ms. Joly also mentioned a "Labor Neighbor Day," focused on kid-oriented activities like whiffle ball tournaments and bike races.

Ms. Brooks asked if the same events should be continued or if new ideas should be explored.

Ms. Huddle mentioned the possibility of an "appy hour" with alcohol and questioned the difference between this and events that serve alcohol.

Ms. Brooks explained that the city no longer purchases alcohol for senior programs due policy changes.

Dr. Solano expressed concerns that providing alcohol might exclude individuals with Alcohol Use Disorder.

Ms. Brooks discussed the frequency of these events, suggesting quarterly, and asked for input regarding a potential event in the first quarter of 2024.

Councilmember Wiltrout expressed support for keeping the business park tour.

Ms. Huddle agreed.

Neighborhood Ambassadors

Dr. Solano discussed the Neighborhood Ambassador program as a complementary effort to the welcome receptions.

Ms. Huddle proposed piloting the program in a neighborhood, focusing on community engagement in the evenings.

Ms. Huddle further elaborated on the pilot, involving New Albany 101 for newcomers in the chosen neighborhood.

Councilmember Wiltrout emphasized the importance of finding willing ambassadors by promoting the idea through flyers in neighborhoods.

Ms. Alvarado suggested using a similar advertising approach as for the IDEA Panel to identify interested volunteers and create a focus group.

Councilmember Wiltrout endorsed the idea and suggested starting small and expanding as needed.

Ms. Alvarado raised the point that some neighborhoods might not want to participate.

Dr. Johnson proposed promoting the concept of being a good neighbor in neighborhoods without ambassadors.

Ms. Joly suggested having materials ready to share with potential ambassadors rather than dictating their roles.

Ms. Brooks emphasized the importance of monitoring who opts in and who does not to avoid creating divides.

Councilmember Wiltrout emphasized the need to implement the program in phases.

Ms. Joly suggested using the community booth at the farmers market and creating collateral to distribute.

Brianna proposed creating a generic email for newcomers to contact an ambassador even if their neighborhood lacks one.

Councilmember Wiltrout recommended preparing promotional materials to inform people about expectations.

Ms. Joly suggested organizing a kickoff event for the program.

Mr. Aklilu proposed including information in real estate agent packets.

Multicultural Festival

Ms. Alvarado expressed satisfaction with the previous multicultural events and discussed the challenges of organizing a larger event.

Ms. Huddle and Dr. Johnson favored continuing with smaller events instead of one larger festival.

Dr. Solano also supported the idea of regular, smaller multicultural celebrations and suggested promoting and supporting other local organizations that already hold multicultural events.

Ms. Brooks suggested participating in larger events, like pride parades, to expand outreach without planning separate events.

Dr. Solano agreed, emphasizing the potential for cost savings.

Ms. Brooks proposed creating a database of events to list on the website and provide support.

Dr. Solano suggested showcasing a calendar of events under the IDEA website.

Ms. Alvarado highlighted the importance of maintaining the existing celebrations.

Ms. van der Zwaag asked about potential exclusions in the events.

Councilmember Wiltrout proposed considering additional events, such as a dance festival or events related to the Jewish population.

Councilmember Wiltrout suggested other week-long events and community suppers.

Ms. Joly recommended considering Juneteenth and Diwali as locked-in events, with the possibility of adding another celebration.

Ms. Alvarado suggested exploring dance-related events.

Ms. Brooks suggested having dinner at the new community garden table and community suppers.

Ms. Joly proposed using the community booth at the farmers market to promote these events.

Dr. Johnson liked the idea of promoting these events at different gatherings.

Mr. Aklilu proposed including information in real estate agent packets.

Ms. Brooks emphasized starting small and creating flyers to promote the events.

Ms. Joly mentioned staff will develop a work plan for the upcoming year, including four welcome receptions. The details can be fine-tuned later, but a proposal is needed for council approval.

Dr. Johnson recommended thinking about panel member attendance which was acknowledged by other members present.

Dr. Johnson motioned to reconvene the IDEA Panel in Council Chambers at 8:46 p.m., seconded by Ms. Alvarado and all were in favor.

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 8:46 pm. Seconded by Ms. Alvarado. All panel members were in favor.