



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Action (IDEA) Implementation Panel
September 14, 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 7:01 p.m.

Those answering roll call:

Panel Chair Brianna Johnson	Present
Panel Vice-Chair Connor Berry	Present (Arr. 7:15)
Panel Member Kirubel Aklilu	Absent
Panel Member Marie Alvarado	Present
Panel Member Eric Duerksen	Present
Panel Member Nwando Olayiwola	Present (Dept. 7:45)
Panel Member Taru Saigal	Present
Council Member Marlene Brisk	Absent
Council Member Andrea Wiltrout	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 welcomed the newest member of the IDEA Implementation Panel, Dr. Taru Saigal and Councilmember Andrea Wiltrout swore in Dr. Saigal as a Panel member.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the August 10, 2023 IDEA Panel meeting. None were noted.

Dr. Olayiwola moved to approve the meeting minutes from the August 10, 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. None were noted.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any visitors requesting to speak on items not on tonight’s agenda. None were present.

Business

Dr. Johnson moved to adjourn into a working group session at 7:05 p.m. Seconded by Panel Member Duerksen. All were in favor and the IDEA Panel moved into a working group session.

Diwali Celebration Update

Ms. van der Zwaag provided an overview of the agenda for the working group session.

Ms. Brooks discussed feedback received from the first Diwali focus group meeting. She presented ideas for the Diwali event, mentioning that it would be similar to the Christmas tree lighting event due to the

time of year and cold weather. The event would likely take place in a tent with heating. Emphasized the importance of fireworks, which cost \$1000 per minute.

Dr. Solano suggested the possibility of using the field house for next year's event; however, Community Programs Administrator Brooks noted that the field house wouldn't be open until December 2025.

Panel Member Alvarado asked about the event's location, mentioning the Christmas tree lighting location at Market Square.

Community Programs Administrator Brooks suggested a location more like Rose Run.

Community Programs Administrator Brooks proposed ideas for the event:

- String colorful lights.
- Have a stage.
- Ensure interactivity while focusing on the stage.
- Mentioned the Indian dance team at OSU called "Origins."
- Organizing a fashion show with Indian clothing boutiques.
- Hosting a bazaar to sell items during the fashion show.
- Offering traditional Indian dance lessons.
- Engaging Indian vendors and food trucks.
- Setting up a kids' area for painting and decorating Diyas.
- Discussing the use of biodegradable/natural/edible materials for Rangoli.
- Mentioned the event's timing from 4-6 PM, with fireworks at 6 PM after dark; noted the timing restraints with it being Veterans Day and also an evening Ohio State football game.

The group showed interest in the idea of involving "Origins."

It was asked if "Origins" charges for their performance. Community Programs Administrator Brooks mentioned that it's a student organization, so they might request a donation.

Community Programs Administrator Brooks mentioned the need to balance the budget and might have to choose between different event elements.

Dr. Johnson inquired about the possibility of a partially indoor/outdoor event. Community Programs Administrator Brooks mentioned working with a tent company to make it more affordable.

Community Programs Administrator Brooks shared more ideas:

- A rangoli competition with local businesses.
- Efforts to secure Indian food from food trucks.
- The idea of giving a gift to everyone who attends.
- Collaborating with Neighborhood Bridges and the NA food pantry for a "giving challenge."

Dr. Solano suggested involving schools in creating Rangoli.

Working Group Member Huddle and Councilmember Wiltrout mentioned knowing art teachers.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any volunteer needs for the event. Community Programs Administrator Brooks mentioned having volunteers at tables.

NA101 at Taylor Farm Reminder

Planner van der Zwaag reminded the Panel about the upcoming Taylor Farm Open House event that the Panel is hosting as part of the NA101 series on October 5, 2023.

2024 Work Plan Review & Discussion

Planner van der Zwaag summarized the content of the previous month's conversation and asked the Panel what their thoughts were on events for next year.

There was a discussion on hosting a “Souper Supper”, involving the food pantry and Neighborhood Bridges, for the first NA101 event of 2024.

The idea was well-received, and Community Programs Administrator Brooks mentioned it could take place at the Heit Center likely.

There was a suggestion of hosting a Women’s Month celebration event that would be a good way to celebrate diversity in women, bridge generations and tell stories. The event could be both educational and celebratory. There could be a variety of activities throughout one week or the month of March. Could invite a variety of women from New Albany to share their stories. Celebrate women of the community. The importance of promoting inclusivity.

Ideas for highlighting women who aren't working, bridging generations and cultures, and promoting intersectionality.

Discussion about the location for Appy Hour next year, with the possibility of holding it at the service department, which could happen rain or shine – or in any season.

Working Group Member Huddle suggested having a table at events for new people to make connections or for residents to sign up to volunteer at some of these events.

Panel Member Alvarado liked that idea to help facilitate more volunteers.

Dr. Johnson asked about the potential for a website resource for everything the Panel has worked on and all of their initiatives.

Planner van der Zwaag responded in the affirmative, stating staff are working on a plan for this.

Dr. Johnson motioned to reconvene the IDEA Panel in Council Chambers at 8:31 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.

Planner van der Zwaag stated there is an opportunity for Panel members to attend the Ohio chapter of the American Planning Association statewide conference in September if they have interest.

Poll Members for Comment

No comments were provided.

Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Seconded by Panel Member Duerksen. All panel members were in favor.