



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Action (IDEA) Implementation Panel
October 12, 2023 Approved 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	Absent
Panel Member Marie Alvarado	Present (Arr. 7:06)
Panel Member Eric Duerksen	Present
Panel Member Nwando Olayiwola	Absent
Panel Member Taru Saigal	Present
Council Member Marlene Brisk	Absent
Council Member Andrea Wiltout	Present

Working group members present: Pat Huddle.

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 September 14, 2023 IDEA Panel meeting. Ms. van der Zwaag stated she made one correction regarding the swearing in of Dr. Saigal. There were no objections to this correction.

Mr. Duerksen moved to approve the meeting minutes from the September 14, 2023 IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Mr. 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 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 7:07 p.m. Seconded by Panel Member Berry. All were in favor and the IDEA Panel moved into a working group session.

Diwali Celebration Update

Ms. Brooks provided the following details about the proposed Diwali event:

- Tented event with fireworks along the promenade.
- 30x120' tent with a 16x20' stage at the back.
- Entertainment includes a DJ, Dhol drum, dance workshop, and performances by NAHS students.
- Vendors and activities (henna, kids table, food trucks, etc.) will be under the tent.
- Inclusion of local organizations like Neighborhood Bridges and Food Pantry.

- Various vendors for jewelry, Indian fashion, cookies, decorations, and cookware.
- Fireworks display for 7-10 minutes.
- Columbus Coffee Company providing a signature drink for attendees.
- Dr. Saigal expressed confidence in the success of the event.
- Councilmember Wilttrout inquired about the focus group's reaction, and Dr. Saigal reported positive feedback.

Promotion efforts for Diwali were discussed, including Connects email announcement, the logo selection, and media coverage. There was emphasis on separating the advertising from Veterans Day to avoid confusion.

The Panel were asked if they thought a proclamation would be appropriate for the event. The Panel agreed that a proclamation would be good to include in the opening ceremony.

Dr. Saigal asked if there would be sufficient parking since it seems like it will be a popular and well attended event. Ms. Brooks confirmed there is sufficient parking at the Heit and Village Center parking areas.

Dr. Johnson asked if the city could put out the changeable road signs as was done for the Juneteenth event. Staff confirmed they will work on this.

NA101 at Taylor Farm Recap

Ms. Brooks provided a recap of the New Albany 101 Taylor Farm Open House, which attracted 65 attendees despite cold and rainy weather. One person attending expressed interest in participating in a city board or commission.

Ms. Joly noted that a lot of people came to see the house.

2024 Work Plan Follow Up

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.

Ms. Brooks reported that Healthy New Albany is open to co-hosting a souper supper in February of 2024.

Dr. Johnson asked if there is a programmatic component like making bowls, and Ms. Brooks answered that there is not capacity to make bowls this year due to the planning timeline.

Ms. Brooks provided the following ideas for the souper supper event:

- Ask volunteers to make soup
- People come in and make donations, get samples of all the different soups they want
- Can turn into competition if the Panel wants
- All money goes to support HNA food pantry
- All soup makers donate everything
- Minimal event costs
- In the past, 150-200 people have attended
- This group could be purposeful in selecting soup makers to get a variety of soups from around the world

The IDEA Panel responded positively to these ideas.

Dr. Johnson suggested having questions or topics at tables to spark conversations and help people meet new people

Ms. Brooks asked if the Panel likes the idea of having an “International Women’s Month” celebration.

Councilmember Wiltrout stated a preference for not connecting the women of New Albany event to International Women’s Month since there is not an event for each international month celebration.

Ms. Brooks stated she intends to organize a focus group soon for the women of New Albany event but it would be helpful to first determine the focus of the event. Ms. Brooks mentioned previous ideas that were brought up at last month’s IDEA Panel meeting including educational components, potentially a week of movies or documentaries leading up to the event.

Other Panel members mentioned other ideas for the event such as a community book read, music and dancers, hearing from stay at home moms in addition to working moms, networking, and a panel discussion. The group decided that interactive activities are good.

Neighborhood Ambassadors

Ms. van der Zwaag presented a concept for the Neighborhood Ambassador program with the following components:

1. New Neighbors – this would be the “welcome wagon” component that would provide new residents with a welcome package of some sort that would have a variety of resources such as:
 - Business card for their neighborhood ambassador(s)
 - City map with trails, parks, and other resources
 - Local business specials for new residents
 - Realtors resource for local businesses
 - QR code to website/sign up for Connects and social media
2. Neighborhood Get-Together – this would be a requirement to have one neighborhood get-together each year. This could be something the neighborhood is already doing together with more intention to invite each household, or it could be something new. This could be going to a city event together. The city will provide no/low-cost ideas for ambassadors.
3. City Connections – this component would provide a link between the city and residents, such as invitations to NA101 events, information about city services, and the potential for “meet and greets” with city staff. This component aims to connect city resources to residents via their neighborhood ambassador.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated the timeline for launching the neighborhood ambassador program would be aligned with the souper supper so it could be announced then and promoted throughout the late winter/spring. Promotion would occur at the Women of New Albany event, as well as at Farmers Markets. The aim would be to have the first training in July, with continued promotion through the end of the year. In October or November, the city could host a second training for additional ambassadors and/or a recognition event to highlight the work of the currently ambassadors.

Regarding the training, Ms. van der Zwaag stated the training would occur once per year and provide a meal with the training. There will be safety, programmatic, and other training as needed. There will also be one event annually to recognize the ambassadors and residents who are carrying out this program.

Some other ideas staff presented included creating a form of identification, t-shirts, or similar for the ambassadors; creating a block party toolkit with tables, chairs, and tents that can be loaned to neighborhoods; creating a more comprehensive webpage with participating neighborhoods and ambassador information.

Following the staff presentation, the Panel asked if background checks would be required. Ms. Brooks stated she would consider this and potentially talk with the schools. The city has access to background checks and they would see if this should be a requirement.

The Panel also discussed the need for clear expectations, such as what ambassadors would be required to know, what their time commitment would be, and how they can navigate door knocking safely.

It was suggested that materials are made available in multiple languages.

There was discussion surrounding parades and the potential for neighborhoods to participate in New Albany parades for Founders Day or July 4.

Other suggestions from the Panel included hosting an open house Q&A for interested residents who want to learn more before committing to be an ambassador; door knob hangers for new residents to indicate they should expect a visit from their neighborhood ambassador.

Dr. Johnson requested additional website resources for the entirety of IDEA Panel programs.

The Panel also discussed its role with hearing resident concerns regarding DEI in the community.

Reconvene and Report Back

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.

Dr. Johnson provided an update on what was discussed in the breakout session.

Dr. Johnson moved to approve the 2024 Work Plan. Seconded by Ms. Alvarado and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to approve the 2024 Work Plan.

Other Business

Dr. Johnson asked if there was any other business from staff. None was noted.

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.