



IDEA Meeting – August 12, 2021

IDEA Committee Leaders: Dr. Lisa White, Mayor Sloan Spalding, Council Member Marlene Brisk, Sarah Thompson - Raising the Bar (via Zoom)

IDEA City Representatives: Vida Farwana, Abe Jacob, Shohba Painter, Tiana Samuels, Shobha Painter, Anita Patel (joined later)

IDEA Stakeholder Representatives: Benjamin Reid, Paul Naumoff (joined later), Jennie Wilson
City Staff: City Manager Joseph Stefanov, Administrative Services Director Adrienne Joly, Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason, Joseph Stefanov

Not present: Nwando Olayiwola, Nicole Dempsey, Mohit Gupta, Renee Shumate, LaVerne Fudge-Williamson, Kimberly Lee Minor, Ofra Eliav Greenshtein, Ben Collins, Courtnee Carrigan

Call to meeting order at 4:07 pm

Mayor Spalding opened the meeting with remarks and Jennifer Mason conducted the roll call of today's committee members.

Update on the last IDEA Committee Meeting

Joseph Stefanov informed the group that a letter would be going out to all the Planter's Grove residents to update them on the latest developments by the end of this week. The city will likely host small group discussions within the neighborhood to get their input and answer any lingering questions. Shohba Painter indicated that this is well needed due to confusion and misinformation that has begun to spread throughout the neighborhood. She suggested that IDEA committee members be given some talking points about how to describe their role to the public. Mayor Spalding discussed the details of why the basketball hoops had been taken down. The city wanted to have one public meeting, however, residents were unable to come at the same time to provide their input and ask questions. The meeting was cancelled, and the city opted for the small group discussions. Marlene Brisk indicated that this was a better format to talk about the role of the IDEA Committee. If anyone would like to host a meeting, Mayor Spalding is encouraging residents to let the city know.

The city has provided Zoom with a formal letter asking them to preserve the data from the July IDEA meeting. The city obtained a warrant for the data. The data will be investigated, and the police will go through a standard process. Abe voiced his confusion around how the Zoom bombing was able to occur. Marlene indicated that someone could change their name to someone who is part of the meeting and appear to take over their chat.

In the News

The next Speak Up and Speak Out library series is on August 24th - the topic is Eloquent Rage. The last Farmer's Market booth sign up will be August 26th. Reach out to let Adrienne know if anyone is interested in volunteering. The engagement with the community members is really valuable. The first Farmer's Market had the most engagement. September 9th the New Albany Chamber of Commerce will be continuing their diversity training series. If anyone has not picked up their t-shirt, we do have them. They will be at the IDEA Committee meetings.

Educational Video Healthy New Albany-Senior Connections

Senior Connections started in 2019 as a way to connect seniors on Thursday mornings and has evolved. Healthy New Albany introduces speakers, and they also have field trips planned for seniors. If you are a member, you receive discounts. Healthy New Albany partnered with Ohio State University to help seniors to participate in the gym at a reduced rate. During COVID, they have given out goodie bags. Currently, they will start partnering with Parks and Recreation to start pickleball leagues. Membership has grown during the pandemic from 30 members to 120 members.

The group was in agreement that Senior Connections is a worthwhile program and a great use of funds. The membership skews above 65 to 70. Abe Jacob posed the question: will this be a resource that will continue to grow? Marlene felt absolutely it will continue to grow through partnerships with other New Albany entities and companies sponsoring activities. There may need to be something separate for the empty nester population because they may not be at a point where they feel ready to join senior activities. Some activities such as cooking classes or parent support groups may be more attractive to those 55 to 65 and would help them connect with the community. Shohba asked for ideas to include residents who may not have transportation to and from Senior Connections events. Mayor Spalding and Marlene Brisk stated that there is a shuttle service, but it's not usually provided for regular weekly activities. Before the pandemic, there was a hotline that seniors could call if they needed assistance. They could discuss putting that service in place again. Abe noted that food usually brings people together. Volunteer opportunities to work in the food pantry could keep residents connected to their community. Providing tutoring for students after school would be another great opportunity to volunteer. Vida Farwana indicated that currently the offerings are geared more toward women (cooking, yoga, etc.). Benjamin Reid suggested getting veterans involved to get more men involved in activities. Food is the universal language; perhaps empty nesters would be interested in a cooking for two class. Lisa stated that the participants that are current participants are likely retired already. Perhaps the program would attract younger participants if they had classes to prepare residents for retirement. Currently, Marlene said that, since the video was completed, the group is becoming less homogenous. Most of the participants are mostly white women, however, it is beginning to become more diverse. Tiana Samuels asked about the ratio of non-residents who are joining senior connections, but Marlene did not have that information available.

Partnership Update and Discussion

Sarah presented the partnership grid on the screen as a framework for all the work that has been done this far. She indicated that it is still evolving and asked if there is anything missing that she didn't mention. The grid referenced entities that the City currently partners with right now. It helps us understand what kind of partnerships we have with each entity. Lisa White pointed out something that Jennie Wilson discussed previously. The entities are largely siloed right now and may need support or resources from the city in order to implement their initiatives. They want to maintain their independence while at the same time partnering with the city. Paul Naumoff suggested that the city partner with Innovate New Albany to match individuals with mentors. Therefore, Sarah added Innovate New Albany to the grid.

Marlene suggested that anyone can go on the city website and sign up for notifications of community events such as the Tiger Talks at Innovate New Albany. Seniors could also be matched with a high school student to provide more connections. Jennie pointed out that she wanted to make sure that the McCoy Center is listed as a partner. CAPA supports the McCoy logistically. The planning for the film festival is currently experiencing some complications. This would be a great opportunity for the entities involved to work together. A discussion occurred which could lead into our brainstorming about communications. The group can further discuss how community events are shared on the website or with the Chamber of Commerce. Lisa mentioned that some of the communication confusion may be solved through the creation of an advisory board who would likely be communicating with all the different entities.

Everyone agreed that the grid was a helpful tool to help everyone conceptualize the partnerships. Marlene thanked everyone for their willingness to be flexible and to come to the in-person meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:36 p.m.