



## **IDEA Meeting – May 13, 2021**

All participants present via Zoom Webinar

IDEA Committee Leaders: Dr. Lisa White, Courtnee Carrigan, Mayor Spalding, Council Member Brisk

IDEA City Representatives: Vida Farwana, Abe Jacob, Shohba Painter, Tiana Samuels, Ofra Eliav Greenshtein, Anita Patel (joined later), Mohit Gupta, LaVerne Fudge-Williamson

IDEA Stakeholder Representatives: Ben Collins, Benjamin Reid, Kimberly Lee Minor, Paul Naumoff, Renee Shumante

Public: Council Member Matt Shull, Sarah Thompson, Karina Sammons,

City Staff: Administrative Services Director Adrienne Joly, Planner Chris Christian, Human Resource Officer Lindsay Rasey, Chief Communications Officer and Marketing Director Scott McAfee, Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason

Not present: Vida Farwana, Nwando Olayiwola, Jennie Wilson

### **Call to meeting order at 4:04 pm**

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

### **Street Sign Recommendations**

Lisa White briefly introduced Kimberly Minor who walked us through the recommendations that were raised during the sub-committee meeting a few weeks ago. She highlighted that there were 10 recommendations altogether that were ranked using the rubric. There were three top recommendations that were discussed during the meeting. First, they wanted to recommend an intervention that would be in direct response to the revelation about the street signs. They would like to see the community come together to discuss a larger conversation about the street signs and also get their input. As a part of this recommendation, the subcommittee proposed that the name of the Planter's Grove Division be changed, but not the name of the streets. This would be used as a catalyst to educate the community and thereby create a historical marker.

One of the community pillars is around lifelong learning. The next recommendation is using the street signs as an opportunity to increase community awareness. First by partnering with the school to conduct outreach. Next, a message of intolerance against racism would be drafted and shared citywide. And thirdly, by partnering with businesses in the area to promote inclusion within the workforce of New Albany.

The last recommendation would be to create a vendor review process. Meaning the city would have more robust inclusion criteria for vendors. When vetting vendors, this would ensure that a percentage of minority owned and female owned businesses would have

consideration. Lisa highlighted that another consideration would be to invite the residents of Planter's Grove to provide their specific input.

### **In the News**

Adrienne elevated Benjamin Reid's involvement in the library's next Speak Up Speak Out session about race on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:30. She finds those sessions to be informative and beneficial. June is PRIDE month and there will be a proclamation read at the next City Council meeting next Tuesday. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce is planning events to take place on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Stonewall Columbus is a great resource for events taking place in honor of PRIDE month as well. City of New Albany has just launched a voice activated FAQ. Use your Amazon Echo to ask questions which is a new communication tool for residents. She then introduced Paul Naumoff to provide the committee with an update regarding a recent incident which occurred within the New Albany school district. He read a statement from the superintendent, Michael Sawyers, to update the community on the steps the district is taking to address the threats. The school will not tolerate racist language or threats; therefore, they are taking the investigation seriously. Disciplinary or criminal action has been taken against the students who have currently been identified. The goal is to create an inclusive culture where everyone feels as if they belong.

Courtnee Carrigan elaborated by stressing the importance of bringing issues that affect the community to the IDEA Committee for everyone to process or ask any questions. She opened up to the group for further discussion. Kimberly Minor asked if she would need to go to the library website to sign up for the Speak Up, Speak Out series. Benjamin informed the group that anyone interested can go to the [columbuslibrary.org](http://columbuslibrary.org) website to sign up. The next discussion will be about the book, "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting in the Cafeteria."

### **Workgroup Breakouts**

Courtnee provided directions regarding what to expect. One topic at a time will be discussed and the group will be broken into 2 groups instead of three. This would give the group more ample time to process one initiative at a time. Each group will answer the following items:

1. Discuss, identify, and recommend ideas for community programs and events.
2. Review the list. Do the recommended ideas address the mission of the IDEA Committee?
3. Are the recommendations actionable? If so, what action steps are needed to ensure success?

They had 40 minutes in each group. And, one person will be the spokesperson to provide recommendations. Some ideas had been mentioned in previous sessions for which were TEDTalks, speakers, focus groups, and ethnic festivals. Marlene Brisk also mentioned that the city just had a meeting this week with the Diversity and Equity Community Foundation. Craig Moore shared an update with them. Kimberly Minor is working hard on a project in collaboration with Lisa Hinson and Craig Moore. They are creating a multicultural film festival which will occur in 2022. What has been discussed is bridging a gap between what is being discussed by the IDEA Committee and the Community Foundation. Kimberly

stressed the importance of cultural awareness not just being a black and white thing it's more about cultural inclusivity. She has asked that the speakers be more inclusive to incorporate people of varying backgrounds, experiences, and abilities.

### **Group 1 Synopsis**

Benjamin: Talk about Pride. Small pride committee first gathering in 2019. As we grow, these community gatherings can be embraced by the City, like Founders Day, to build true feelings of inclusiveness and belong. Lots of folks have moved here to NA - we don't always have these decades long traditions that can be primarily built of an old boys network.

**Opportunity to build new traditions for everyone.** Amphitheatre is coming - could that be multicultural space opportunity? Have partnership with CAPA, with Lincoln Theatre.

**WHILE WE ARE DOING THESE EVENTS, HOW TO PARTNER WITH OTHERS TO TELL OUR STORY.**

KIMBERLY: Loves the partner event ideas. Lots of people who feel slighted for different reasons could be reached and feel more like they can easily participate. If we have a Black Lives Matter presentation, some might question why we don't have a Pride or Asian American Pacific Islander presentation. **WE COULD CREATE A NEW ALBANY CALENDAR with everything listed.** This could be something that we look forward to. That's like model suburb fantastic.

PAUL: agree with the group so far and would add these ideas:

- Joint ventures with (chamber / foundation / city / schools ) fuels economic empowerment and supports NA. Paul noticed at high school graduation the number of kids who showed up without parents. People want to help. Do something unique for every HS freshman. Find out what they are interested in and match them up with a mentor in the community who can support their future goals. Help build for these young adults that NA is looking out for them. This was his experience in the small town where he grew up and this type of community programming was powerful.
- Events: - agree with all - we have a calendar - can we set up a festival that could be anchor. Could look different every year. Vendors from all over the city. How can we make it local? Potluck? Neat to see your neighbors and bring people together. Take on some level of neighborhood local. Try grandma's recipes.
- Partnerships: Talked with Craig/Foundation - looked at the series that have been put on by the foundation - really inspiring stories. Are there other communities that have succeeded in building inclusive community that we could bring in for speaker series?
- Bringing in education as a part of these events. How can we get our kids outside of the bubble? 2004 Leadership Columbus example where participants toured community organizations to learn about programs in the community and about service. Weave this into what we plan to build these muscles in the next generation.

JOE: festival was mentioned in the community survey. Would be good to have more organic opportunities to gather. Especially now, people have an interest in enjoying themselves, getting outside, and re-engaging socially.

MB: liked local neighbor traditions and recipes - like the concept of connection.

KM: Previous New Jersey community example : they put together a coalition to build welcome initiative. What they did that worked. Every month on third Wednesday at 7pm there was a standing open house. Newsletter that the community lived by would include each month's meeting. There was also a dinner with captains - one house do appetizers - rotating dinners. You knew there were two weekends this would happen, and you would host. People looked forward to it. Day of Service could be a community event.

## **Group 2 Synopsis**

Ideas that were raised as part of the discussion were as follows:

Laverne: Liked the film festival idea. Community cookouts while we are trying to get some of the bigger events planned. T-Shirts with an IDEA Committee logo on it to pass out at different events. Wearing the shirts as a conversation piece. Leveraging the events that city has planned with Healthy New Albany. Getting the word out regarding book club events.

Abe: June is PRIDE month. The City could partner with Stonewall Columbus to put on a presentation that could be viewed virtually. This could be something that they would be able to view in the privacy of their own home. Parents could also get information about their child who has just come out. There is a PRIDE Committee that has been formed and Benjamin Reid is on that committee.

Ofra: She also liked the idea of a film festival, but she was thinking about even like a drive-in film festival where families could share their food. The city could also sponsor more walks and invite residents to participate and get to know one another. Partner with Healthy New Albany.

Ben: Chamber of Commerce does a welcome packet. Monthly lunch series they can also access it virtually. Can we partner with these entities in enough time? It took a while to find a single source for event listings. The Chamber of Commerce is a good source, and you can have them listed by category.

Tianna: The symphony has done events called Sensory Friendly. It would be a great venue to support community members diagnosed with autism spectrum and their family members. We are known for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Invite the non-ambulatory population. She would love for us to have a Juneteenth representation. Sometimes we just need a smile or a welcoming presence in the community. We as the IDEA Committee could be at some of the events to get to know other community members and make them feel welcome. It would also let the community know about what the IDEA committee is doing. We could have a calendar with sign-ups for

IDEA committee representatives to volunteer at events. We could utilize the stakeholders that we have to ensure that what we are planning is actionable.

Matt: Utilizing the farmer's market to do outreach to diversify vendors. We could walk in the parade as an IDEA group for 4<sup>th</sup> of July or Founder's Day. Get a banner and walk in the parades to get interest.

Mo: Create focus groups throughout the city in micro subsets. IDEA Committee members could be present at some of those events and help facilitate discussion. It would be informal and could have a local food truck drop by. Or, it could have a more thematic approach.

Adrienne: 2 summers ago, the city did road shows in the summer. They would go to people's homes of residents who were interested in city government. Most homes had food and drinks. Targeting micro-communities is needed.

Anita: It is also AAPI month so again this is also an opportunity to integrate community events with celebrations.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:35 PM**