



IDEA Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2021

All participants present in person at the New Albany Public Service Department or by webinar
IDEA Committee Leaders: Dr. Lisa White, Council Member Brisk, Courtnee Carrigan, Sarah Thompson

IDEA City Representatives: Laverne Fudge-Williamson, Abe Jacob, Shobha Painter, Tiana Samuels, Anita Patel, Kimberly Lee Minor

IDEA Stakeholder Representatives: Paul Naumoff, Jennie Wilson, Ben Collins,

City Staff: Administrative Services Director Adrienne Joly, Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason, Joseph Stefanov, Human Resource Officer Lindsay Rasey, Anna Van Der Zwaag

Guest: Cheryl Pentella, Pentella Unlimited

Not present: Mayor Spalding, Nicole Dempsey, Mohit Gupta, Renee Shumate, Ofra Eliav Greenshtein, Vida Farwana, Angela Douglas, Benjamin Reid

Call to meeting order at 4:10 pm

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

In the News

Adrienne Joly announced that the next Speak Up Speak Out library book club series presentation will be on October 20th. The conversation will be about the book *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward. Please tune in if you are interested.

Joe Stefanov gave an update on the zoom bombing. It reached a dead end in the investigation. The suspects used specialized spoofing equipment that stole the IP addresses of the IDEA committee participants. Unfortunately, there is no way to trace this type of technology.

The last of the Planter's Grove meetings wrapped up last night with the community members providing their feedback. Their input will be summarized for additional recommendations.

Adrienne brought with her the feedback cards from the Farmer's Market. She read a few of their comments aloud during the meeting and passed them around for the group to read individually during the meeting. Tiana Samuels suggested the cards with feedback from the students could be shared with the school. It was noted that generally the comments were positive and useful.

The city has started a discussion with the council on the structure of what they are currently calling IDEA 2.0. A report will be drafted for presentation to the council in December.

Communication Discussions

Courtnee highlighted that this will be our last formal meeting to have an in-depth workgroup discussion. We have talked about programming and events, and we have discussed how to leverage our partnerships. This will be an opportunity to do a deeper dive into communications. What haven't we talked about yet?

Abe suggested that the city website include a diversity page that would be a one stop show DEI information would be readily available. Laverne added to the idea by saying that a guest column would allow individuals from the community to share their stories. Cheryl Pentella agreed that a guest column would provide a level of authenticity. Jennie thought that videos of families sharing their experiences would be even more impactful. Lisa asked what the committee thought about including content from diverse organizations in the area such as the Women's Network or Innovate New Albany. Shobha indicated that this would be an opportunity to look at New Albany's current programming to promote what is already happening. Tiana indicated that the website could also be a place for community members to give their feedback on different issues, whether positive or suggestions for improvement.

This led to a discussion of whether it should be named a diversity page or a community page. Kimberly reminded the group that diversity is a given. Community is more inclusive because it brings people together. Belonging is being a part of a community. We discussed the terms and the meaning of diversity, equity, and inclusion as a part of the branding of the IDEA committee.

Anita discussed the need to promote the food pantry as a way to meet the socioeconomic needs of the community. Many people in New Albany may not know that a food pantry is available.

Laverne and Abe both agreed that the city needs a permanent DEI representative to help bring many of these ideas to fruition. The DEI representative would be a spokesperson and a liaison within in the community.

The next meeting will be more of a celebration of the recommendations that have been developed as a part of the IDEA Committee. We have four speakers who have volunteered to talk so far about their experiences of their participation: Abe, Jennie, Tiana, Laverne. Adrienne announced that there will be a videographer who will also be there to capture the committee members answer to the question: "An inclusive New Albany is...." Adrienne asked if the committee members would like the celebration to be at a different time next month. All concurred to keep it at the same time as usual. We also discussed the upcoming December 7th City Council meeting and urged that the committee members save the date to participate in being a part of presenting the recommendations to the committee as a part of the work that has been completed this year.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:33 p.m.