



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Implementation Panel  
January 9, 2025 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 7:00 p.m.

Those answering roll call:

Panel Chair Brianna Johnson	Present
Panel Vice-Chair Connor Berry	Present
Panel Secretary Marie Alvarado	Absent
Panel Member Taru Saigal	Present
Panel Member Courtney Nixon	Present
Panel Member Alex Bilchak	Absent
Panel Member Antonio Pestana	Present
Council Member Marlene Brisk	Present
Council Member Andrea Wiltrout	Absent

Staff members present: Adrienne Joly, Director of Administrative Services  
Abbey Brooks, Community Program Administrator  
Chelsea Nichols, Planner II  
Alonna Skinner, Community Program Specialist

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the November 14, 2024 IDEA Panel meeting minutes. Seeing none, Panel Member Berry moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 14, 2024 IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Saigal and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to approve the meeting minutes.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any visitors requesting to speak on items not on tonight's agenda. Seeing no visitors, the hearing of visitors for items not on the agenda was closed.

**Business:**

***Accessibility Initiatives: Listening Session***

Staff members lead the discussion regarding the Listening Session planning:

- When: Monday, March 10, 2025 (in the evening)
- Where: Columbus Metropolitan Library - New Albany Branch
- Center for Disability Empowerment to help facilitate discussion
- Panel members had the following feedback:
  - o Staff should solicit questions from invitees ahead of time
  - o Should be uplifting and positive energy
  - o Future focused: Example – Imagine 5-10 years down the road our city wins an award for being an inclusive city. What would the city have done to get the award?
  - o Attendees should share experiences
  - o Attendees should tell us what we need to know.
  - o Will we share data about New Albany?
  - o Other potential questions:
    - How do we make people feel more included?
    - When do you not feel included?
    - What do we need to do to make you feel more included?

### ***Souper Supper Planning***

Staff members lead the discussion regarding the Souper Supper planning:

- To be advertised as the following:
  - o Join us to taste, smell and celebrate our community's diversity with a SOUPer Supper that will fill your belly and your heart. Local soup makers will serve soups inspired by their diverse backgrounds while competing for the coveted title of best soup maker. The real winners are the diners who get unlimited soup, bread and dessert! The suggested donation of \$5/person goes directly to the New Albany Food Pantry to support our food-insecure neighbors.
  - o Calling all chefs, cooks and guardians of the family's secret soup recipe – we need you to make soup for the 2025 Souper Supper! Details and signup are [HERE](#).
- Date: Wednesday, February 12, Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
- Location: The Heit Center, 150 W. Main St.
- Suggested Donation: \$5/person, or \$20/family of 4+
- Panel members need to recruit 3 soup makers each and attend/promote the event.
- Panel members provided the following feedback:
  - o Bing Card to encourage attendees to socialize with one another
  - o Recipe book
  - o Advertise with sandwich board signs

### ***A Train Near Magdeburg***

Staff members lead the discussion regarding the event for A Train Near Magdeburg planning:

- Film produced by Matthew A. Rozell, who is currently lives local/a Westerville resident
- 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Auschwitz liberation
- 4 episodes
- Partial viewing and discussion
- IDEA Panel involvement
- YouTube link to be shared with the panel members
- Combine with something with the schools like the Foundation does

### ***Case Study Review***

- Roll a Mile in My Shoes: Experiential Events
- 100% accessible restroom trailers for events (<https://momentumrefresh.com/>)
- 2-3 Day event with different themes
- Other Ideas
  - o Items that can apply to all city initiatives
  - o Community Program Specific items

### ***Other Business:***

#### ***2025 Annual Organizational Meeting***

Dr. Johnson invited staff to lead the annual organizational meeting.

The IDEA Panel discussed current positions of chair, vice-chair, and secretary.

Dr. Saigal stated she would recommend the reappointment Dr. Johnson as Panel Chair.

Mr. Berry stated he would like to nominate himself as Panel Chair. Dr. Johnson stated that she welcomed the change.

Mr. Berry nominated Mr. Berry as Panel Chair. Motion seconded by Dr. Saigal and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to appoint Mr. Berry as Panel Chair.

Dr. Saigal moved to appoint herself, Dr. Saigal, as Panel Vice-Chair. Seconded by Dr. Johnson, and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to appoint Dr. Saigal as Panel Vice-Chair.

Dr. Johnson moved to reappoint Ms. Alvarado as Panel Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Pestana, and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to reappoint Ms. Alvarado as Panel Secretary.

Regarding the location of meetings, staff recommended to retain permanent movement of the entirety of meetings to the Council Conference room to allow for better flow of conversation and planning for events.

Dr. Johnson moved to hold the regularly scheduled IDEA Implementation Panel meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month in the Council Conference room at Village Hall, with the exception of a recess of meetings in July and December. Seconded by Mr. Pestana and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to hold the meeting during this day, place, and time; including the recess in July and December.

### ***Community Connectors Training***

Staff members lead the discussion regarding the Community Connectors training.

- February 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm
- IDEA panel members to attend lunch portion of the training

### **Adjournment:**

Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:05 p.m. All panel members were in favor.