



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Implementation Panel
March 13, 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 Berry at 7:09 p.m.

Those answering roll call:

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

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

Panel Chair Berry asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the January 9, 2025 IDEA Panel meeting minutes. Seeing none, Panel Member Bilchak moved to approve the meeting minutes from the January 9, 2025 IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Johnson and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to approve the meeting minutes.

Panel Chair Berry 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:

Souper Supper Recap

Staff members lead the discussion regarding the Souper Supper Recap:

- 7 languages being spoken
- 18 soups
- 200+ in attendance
- \$1,006 raised for the New Albany Food Pantry
- \$1,501.60 in expenses
- Three winners for the favorite soup contest. One winner being IDEA Panel member Bilchak
- Ran out of soup in the first hour.

Listening Session Recap

Staff members lead the discussion regarding the Listening Session Recap:

- The IDEA Implementation Panel is making Accessibility a key focus in 2025. The purpose of the Listening Session was to explore all aspects of accessibility in New Albany beyond just ADA compliance. This was an opportunity for community members to share their experiences, concerns, and ideas.
- Event held at the library on Monday, March 10, 2025. Approximately 40 attendees:
 - Individuals present on their own behalf
 - Advocates present on behalf of loved ones
 - Representatives from various community entities:
 - New Albany Compass Group
 - NAPLS
 - Marburn Academy
 - Dreams on Horse Back
 - LifeSigns Deaf Church
 - Adaptive Sports Connection
 - Columbus Metropolitan Library – New Albany Location
 - Canine Companions
 - Columbus Parks & Rec
- Susan Hetrick and Debra Petermann with The Center for Disability Empowerment facilitated the discussion.
- Discussion Topics:
 - What are the barriers to people with disabilities being included in the community?
 - What would help people with disabilities to feel more included in their community?
 - How can people with disabilities in our community develop more meaningful relationships?
- Panel Members' feedback:
 - Enjoyable evening
 - Pick the low hanging fruit to start implementing
 - A lot of items from the table groups' list will be difficult but communication came up often and would be easier to implement.
 - Perhaps facilitate with nonprofits
 - The Miracle League event is something where high school kids volunteer and then continue to help year after year.
 - It would be great if people could start treating the Special Olympics at the same level of recognition as other sports organizations.
 - Would like the adaptive sports representative that was at the Listening Session to speak to the Panel.
 - An idea of a disability council was brought up.
 - Invite people to participate at IDEA meetings.
 - Ambassadors
 - Hiring Process
 - Lunch & Learn
 - Life after High School
 - Resources for Communications team

Community Connectors

Staff members lead the discussion regarding the Community Connectors update:

- Training Session Recap
 - 5 out of 10 Connectors attended
 - Representation from 7 city departments
 - Webpage is updated with Connector's info, headshots, and an interactive city/neighborhood map
- Gift Box/Welcome Box Update
 - Map with points of interest & city programs and events
 - 43054 candles
 - Note cards
- Additional Application to Review
 - Five more applications were reviewed and approved.
 - Now have a total of 15 Connectors
 - 12 neighborhoods represented

Other Business:

None

Adjournment:

Panel Chair Berry adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:05 p.m. All panel members were in favor.