



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Implementation Panel
May 8, 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 7:00 p.m.

Those answering roll call:

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

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

Action of Minutes:

Panel Chair Berry asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the April 10, 2025 IDEA Panel meeting minutes. Seeing none, Panel Member Bilchak moved to approve the meeting minutes from the April 10, 2025 IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Johnson and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to approve the meeting minutes.

Hearing of Visitors for Items Not on Tonight's Agenda:

Panel Chair Berry asked if there were any visitors requesting to speak on items not on tonight's agenda. Seeing none, Panel Chair Berry closed the hearing of visitors.

Business:

A Train Near Magdeburg

City staff lead the discussion:

A TRAIN NEAR MAGDEBURG is the story of a trainload of 2500 Jewish souls headed for extermination at the hands of the Nazis, and a handful of brave American soldiers from the U.S. 30th Infantry and 743 Tank Battalion who saved the lives of twice as many lives as those on Schindler's list. The story also chronicles a high school teacher's journey of bringing to light this hidden story from the past and the incredible events that followed. A team of Emmy award winning filmmakers is completing work on a four-part miniseries which will bring this incredible story to life.

Highlights:

- Evening presentation and reception on **Thursday, September 11** at the McCoy Center
- Collaboration with NAPLS including three **Artist in Residence** experiences (film, orchestra/composing, author) and a student presentation

- **Violins of Hope**
- **Abadi art** reproductions
- **\$10,000** donation from the New Albany Community Foundation
- **Volunteers needed**
- Panel Member Nixon: If staff can provide her with an overview of the event, she can pass it onto Mission Essential and her employer to present it to them.

Panel Member Johnson moved to support the Train Near Magdeburg event. Seconded by Panel Chair Berry and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstention to approve the motion.

New Volunteer Portal

City staff gave an overview of the new volunteer portal on the city's website. People will need to fill out a volunteer application and then they can sign up to volunteer for specific events.

Juneteenth Celebration – Planning Update

City staff lead the discussion:

- Thursday, June 19th from 6:00-9:00pm
- 15 vendors
- 7 food trucks
- 3 authors
- Line up:
 - Kerry Charles as emcee
 - City Proclamation
 - Black National Anthem performed by Aeva Joyner
 - Columbus Cultural Orchestra
 - Lyn Ford, storyteller
 - GOREE Drum and Dance
 - Chuck Starr Band
- In addition: DJ J Ditto, artist MaLeah Cochran, face painter, balloon twister, children's activities

Community Connectors Update

City staff lead the discussion:

- First Training session in February (5 attended out of 10)
- 15 Connectors in total currently, representing 13 neighborhoods
- The second Training Session was scheduled for May 6 but postponed due to low attendance (4 connectors committed, 10 still need trained)
- The first newsletter from city staff to Connectors went out on April 1 and a second went out on May 1
- Welcome boxes: 43054 Candles are in (Donation from Alene Candles) and Custom boxes and maps in progress

Other Business:***New Albany Special Olympics***

Council Member Brisk and City staff lead the discussion:

- The City Council recognized New Albany Special Olympics at their May 6th meeting with a special proclamation for its incredible work.
- The New Albany Special Olympics will receive the 2025 Community Connection Award at this year's New Albany Founders Day celebration on Saturday, May 17th
- The city is proud of the strong connection between New Albany Police Department and Special Olympics through their year-round support and participation.

Listing Session Update

City staff are working on drafting and releasing follow-up information to the attendees and eventually to the larger community.

Adjournment:

Panel Chair Berry adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:28 p.m. All panel members were in favor.