



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Implementation Panel
August 14, 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 7:05 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	Present
Panel Member Courtney Nixon	Absent
Panel Member Alex Bilchak	Absent
Panel Member Antonio Pestana	Present
Council Member Marlene Brisk	Present
Council Member Andrea Wilttrout	Absent

Staff members present: Abbey Brooks, Community Program Administrator
Chelsea Nichols, Planner II

Action of Minutes:

Panel Chair Berry asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the June 12, 2025 IDEA Panel meeting minutes. Seeing none, Panel Member Alvarado moved to approve the meeting minutes from the June 12, 2025 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.

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 Update

- Evening presentation and reception on Thursday, September 11 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the McCoy Center
- Collaboration with NAPLS including four Artist in Residence experiences (film, orchestra/composing, author, moral philosophy) and a student presentation
- Violins of Hope
- Abadi art reproductions
- 417 tickets claimed to date
- \$10,000 donation from the New Albany Community Foundation
- \$5,000 donation from the Altschule family

2026 Planning

- Panel members suggested holding an International Game Night as opposed to the International Food Festival that was discussed during the June meeting.
- Staff brought forward the following suggestions:
 - OSU medical student partnership

- Annual lecture
- Block Party Package
- Accessible job fair
- Increase diversity at all City events

Juneteenth Recap

- Estimated 1,700 attendees (up 100 from last year)
- Food trucks, vendors, artists, and performers
- City Proclamation
- Live coverage from NBC4

July – Disability Pride Month

New Albany City Council proudly issued a proclamation this evening, recognizing Disability Pride Month and the anniversary of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Our commitment to an inclusive community is reflected in the exciting progress we've made since our IDEA Panel's Listening Session event earlier this year.

Thanks to valuable feedback from our community, we've already implemented positive changes like a sensory-friendly Inclusivity Zone at our Independence Day Parade in addition to plans to further increase accessibility at Taylor Farm Park, including a paved parking lot connection and a universal changing table.

These examples are just the beginning of our ongoing commitment to making New Albany a place where everyone feels welcomed, included, and supported. We'll continue this work throughout 2025 and beyond.

NA101: Business Park Tours

- August 28th
- Depart from Village Hall
- Tours at 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm
 - 4pm & 5pm tours are full
 - 5 spots left on the 6pm tour bus

Diwali Planning

- Saturday, October 18th from 4:30-7:30pm
- Fireworks start at approximately 7:20pm

Community Connectors Update

- Second training held in July
- Trained 9 new Connectors
- Connectors are equipped with lanyards, business cards, and door hangers
- Welcome boxes on the way

Adjournment: Panel Chair Berry adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:39 p.m. All panel members were in favor.