



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Implementation Panel  
February 12, 2026 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 7:10 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	Present
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  
Alonna Skinner, Community Program Specialist

**Action of Minutes:**

Panel Chair Berry asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the November 13, 2025 IDEA Panel meeting minutes. Seeing none, Panel Member Alvarado moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 13, 2025, 2025 IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Saigal and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 6 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:**

***Souper Supper Recap & NA 101***

- Souper Supper took place February 10, 6 -8 p.m, Heit Center and raised over \$2,300.
- Business Park tour is scheduled for September 10, 2026.
- Appy Hour – City focused, in April or paired with Business Park Tour in September.

***Community Connectors Update***

- New resident “Welcome” box that includes a custom candle, city guide with map, welcome card with a personalized note from the Connector.
- New ways to recruit new Connectors in 2026: possible mailer, A-frame, signs in Village Center.
- As of December 2025, 15 Community Connectors representing 13 neighborhoods have been appointed. 50% of New Albany households have been reached.

### ***Topics for 2026 Education Session/Lecture***

- Inter-generational lecture-interactive event. Learning about different generations and how to communicate across generations.
- Looking to have an “expert” to teach and also have interactions with each other.
- When: In April, a weeknight, early evening with snacks, not dinner. This will help keep the cost down and open to more participants.
- Location: possibly the Estate to accommodate 200 people.

### ***Block Party Trailer***

- This would launch Summer 2026. The trailer would include: 16 chairs, 4 tables, 2 six-foot barricades, 10-28” cones, 2-10’ x10’ tents, and various lawn games. People could rent out for their neighborhood block party. Guidelines would need to be created around who could rent and use etc.
- Panel Member Alvarado moved to present a motion to approve the Block Party Trailer. Seconded by Panel Member Pestana and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions.

### **Other Business:**

#### ***2026 Annual Organizational Meeting***

Panel Chair Berry invited staff to lead the annual organizational meeting.

Panel Chair Berry stated he was stepping down as chair as well as leaving the committee.

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

Panel Chair Berry nominated Dr. Saigal as Panel Chair and she respectfully declined.

Panel Chair Berry nominated panel member Marie Alvarado as Panel Chair. Motion seconded by Mr. Pestana, and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to reappoint Ms. Alvarado as Panel Chair.

Ms. Alvarado moved to appoint Ms. Nixon, as Panel Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Pestana, and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to appoint Ms. Nixon as Panel Vice-Chair.

Ms. Alvarado moved to appoint Dr. Johnson as Panel Secretary. Seconded by Dr. Saigal, and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to appoint Dr. Johnson as Panel Secretary.

Regarding the location of meetings, staff recommended moving the location of the IDEA Implementation Panel meetings from Village Hall to Waters Edge 7815 Walton Parkway, New Albany, OH 43054 (The Cardinal Conference Room) due to technical issues. Ms. Alvarado moved present a motion to move the meetings to 7815 Walton Parkway, New Albany, OH 43054, to keep the meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month, except for a recess of meetings in July and December. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pestana and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 6 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. Staff Member Brooks stated how important attendance was especially now that the committee was short a member. The absentee policy states if 3 consecutive meetings or 4 meetings in a year were missed, you would be removed. Council Member Brisk added that she would be under pressure to look at attendance if meetings were cancelled due to lack of a quorum and would talk to members about resigning if they can't meet the attendance requirement.

**Poll Members for Comment: None**

**Adjournment:** Panel Chair Berry adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m. All panel members were in favor.