



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Implementation Panel  
March 12, 2026 Minutes**

The IDEA Implementation Panel met for the panel’s regularly scheduled session at Water’s Edge, 7815 Walton Parkway, New Albany, Ohio and was called to order by Panel Chair Alvarado at 7:08 p.m. Those answering roll call:

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

Staff members present: Abbey Brooks, Community Program Administrator  
Alonna Skinner, Community Program Specialist

**Action of Minutes:**

Panel Chair Alvarado asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the February 12, 2026 IDEA Panel meeting minutes. Seeing none, Panel Member Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes from the February 12, 2026, IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Saigal and the IDEA Implementation Panel voted with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstentions to approve the meeting minutes.

**Hearing of Visitors for Items Not on Tonight’s Agenda:** Panel Chair Alvarado asked if there were any visitors requesting to speak on items not on tonight’s agenda. Seeing none, Panel Chair Alvarado closed the hearing of visitors.

- New panel member Matt Freedman was sworn in by Council Member Wiltrout. He is a 20-year resident of New Albany. His wife is Lisa and he has 3 daughters. He founded a non-profit 14 years ago, “Fry Out Cancer”, to raise money for the James Cancer Hospital. They have raised over \$300k for ovarian cancer research and given thousands of turkeys to families in need at Thanksgiving.

**Business:**

***The Far Out, Awesome, Lit, Fire Intergenerational Event***

- An evening of education and entertainment as we use the principles of improv comedy to recognize the diverse strengths of each generation while learning to navigate intergenerational communication. There will also be a trained HR professional to give an overview of the generations. The improv comedy group will get everyone engaged with humor and kindness.
- Heavy appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Recommended age is teen – adult, with participants of all ages welcome with adult supervision and guidance.
- Tuesday, April 7. 5:30 -7pm. The Estate at New Albany, 5216 Forest Dr., New Albany, OH 43054. No cost, but [advance registration is required](#).
- Goal of event is to be interactive and have attendees interact with each other.
- Targeting 150 people to attend.

### ***Community Connectors Update***

- Staff Member Skinner showed the new “welcome” box that new residents will receive from their Community Connector. The box contains: a card explaining what the Community Connectors program is, their Community Connector’s name and contact information, a custom ‘43054’ candle, and a map of New Albany.
- Communications has promoted via social media & e-newsletter resulting in:
  - 5 new interest forms
  - One declined to apply (moving out of state)
  - Haven’t heard back from two
  - **TWO new applications to review.**
- **Next up:** Yard signs in neighborhoods without a Connector and postcards to all residents in neighborhoods without a Connector.
- Once we have a new class of Connectors appointed, training will be by video.
- Announce Community Connector openings at the upcoming IDEA Panel event at the April 7, 2026 event.
- May need to discuss term limits of the Community Connectors in the future.

### ***Kulture City***

- Contract has been signed.
- **Next up:** Online Training (at 50% trained we receive supplies and signage)  
Supplies consist of: Kulture City Signage, 10 Sensory Bags, 1 Weighted Lap Pad, Social Story Development (once supplies and signage are received), and Sensory Inclusive Certificate once certified.
- Information about Kulture City will be added to the City’s website to inform the public. Communications will also make informational social media videos.

### **Other Business:**

- For future meetings, there will be a directional sign out for visitors.

### **Poll Members for Comment: None**

**Adjournment:** Panel Chair Alvarado adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m. All panel members were in favor.