



**New Albany Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Implementation Panel
June 11, 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	Absent
Panel Secretary Brianna Johnson	Present
Panel Member Taru Saigal	Present
Panel Member Alex Bilchak	Present
Panel Member Antonio Pestana	Present
Panel Member Matt Freedman	Present
Council Member Marlene Brisk	Absent
Council Member Andrea Wilttrout	Present

Staff members present: Alonna Skinner, Community Program Specialist

Action of Minutes:

Panel Chair Alvarado asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the May 14, 2026 IDEA Panel meeting minutes. Seeing none, Panel Member Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes from the May 14, 2026, IDEA Implementation Panel meeting. Seconded by Panel Member Bilchek 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 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.

Business:

Community Connectors Update- Background Checks

- Staff Members Brooks and Skinner met with law director Albrecht, and he felt it wasn't necessary to implement background checks for Community Connectors based on the safeguards currently in place. They also reviewed code of conduct to see if anything was missing and didn't feel anything needed to be added.

4th of July Parade

- Staff Member Skinner discussed with the IDEA panel the opportunity for the IDEA to be in the the 4th of the July parade. She also shared the 2-day Semiquincentennial activities that will be happening in New Albany.

Final Juneteenth Update

- Friday June 19, 2026, 6 pm-9 pm at Hinson Amphitheater
- Food trucks and music will start at 5pm.
- 16 registered vendors and 8 food trucks as of Monday 6.15.2026.
- Entertainment includes student vocalist, roller skating group, spoken word, gospel choir, step team, GOREE drum and dance, DJ, roller rink, kids' area
- \$1,500 sponsorship – Kemba Financial, \$3,000 sponsorship – Amgen.

- T-shirt sales will happen in our info tent.
- 619 Club – Juneteenth sponsorship club. \$50 entry level to join. 619 Club members get exclusive perks.
 - Name recognition on 619 Club sign at Juneteenth Celebration
 - Onstage photo opportunity at Juneteenth Celebration with other 619 Club members.
 - Free T-shirt customization at Juneteenth Celebration.

NA 101- board/commission/panel recruitment

- NA 101 was created to make local government more accessible to New Albany residents. There have been programs such as Souper Supper, business park tours, behind the scenes at the amphitheater, public service open house, etc. The most popular have been the business park tours and Souper Supper.
- This September we will be doing the business park tour/appy hour departing from Walton Parkway. There will be heavy appetizers in the lobby and the opportunity to meet people across the City's departments.
- Staff Member Skinner asked how to increase engagement with Boards and Commissions at these events and get people to apply to the openings. The panel brainstormed ideas such as an email opt in list for the NA 101 events that would put them on a list to be notified of Boards and Commissions openings, an IDEA table at NA 101 events to be able to talk to people, answer questions etc. Next year at Souper Supper have someone speak to attendees about current opportunities and have a newer B/C member speak who can share their experience, what a realistic time commitment is, how they got involved to encourage others to apply. Also discussed the need to move Souper Supper into a larger venue next year.

Kulture City – is live!

- The City of New Albany is on Kulture City's app and sensory bags/signage will be at all city events. Will be adding Kulture City info to the Juneteenth script and work on a social media video to increase awareness. An article will be coming out soon in Healthy New Albany magazine.
- We currently have 10 sensory bags and 1 weighted lap pad available at events.
- Goal is to make our events as accessible as possible. We have added an "Accommodation Station" at the end of the 4th of July parade that will have tent for the Kulture City sensory bags and accessible parking area. The end of the parade route will have a "quiet zone" where lights, noise, music, etc. will have to be reduced by 50%.

Other Business: None

Poll Members for Comment: None

Adjournment: Panel Chair Alvarado adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:03 p.m. All panel members were in favor.