

Members of the Plan Commission,

On Monday December 12, 2005, you will be discussing the Nelson Meadows Plan. I spoke at a Plan commission meeting earlier this fall concerning the need to have sidewalks put on Brookbank Road south of Blanchard to the Nelson Meadow's property. There are no sidewalks on this street now, because it is a dead end street.

Then as now, I view this as a newly created Gap sidewalk as do many other residents in the area. It appears that staff has taken exception to that reference. I am happy to concede semantics, but the fact remains, this short block is the only street in this area without a sidewalk. Blanchard north of Brookbank has sidewalks and Brookbank north of Blanchard has sidewalks. Carpenter Street to the east has sidewalks, as Middaugh to the west has sidewalks. Nelson Meadows will have sidewalks and will connect up to Jefferson Street, which has sidewalks. So, if this is not a gap, perhaps a better term would be an island. An island without sidewalks, surrounded by streets with sidewalks.

The need for sidewalks on this very short stretch of Brookbank Road could not be clearer. Children use this road as a means to get to Hillcrest School, O'Neil Junior High and South High School. Before this development, a sidewalk on this street was unneeded as it was a dead end street with little to no traffic. Now that Brookbank Road will go through, there is no longer a safe place to walk.

I understand that the developer is not responsible for the sidewalk on Brookbank. The developer however is providing funds in lieu of sidewalks on Carpenter Street. I request that these funds be used to put a much needed sidewalk on Brookbank Road between Blanchard and the proposed Nelson Meadows site. If you do not vote to recommend this course of action, staff has stated that a sidewalk will not be put on this street segment for 17 years or more, as it ranks 111th out of 117 on the sidewalk matrix.

It makes perfect sense, common sense to address this issue now when the change is being made the neighborhood, rather than in 17 years. The money being provided by the developer now covers the cost of sidewalks in today's dollars. It certainly will not cover the cost of this sidewalk in 17 years.

Thank you for your time and efforts,

Respectfully,

Alice Strelau
5611 Brookbank Road

c: Village Manager
c: Village Council

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