

**Hillside Community Council Special Meeting
Minutes for Thursday, July 7, 2022, 6:30 pm
Draft**

Location: Held via Zoom

Board Roll Call: Present: Carmela Warfield, Zac Johnson, Robert Redlinger, Dr. Helena Wisniewski, Bruce Vergason. Excused: Todd Brownson.

1. **Board President Warfield opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.**
 - Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Call to order & welcoming remarks.

2. **Update: Public Safety Concerns at O'Malley & Rockridge Dr and O'Malley Elementary**
 - Presented by President Warfield.
 - Area around O'Malley Elementary and Rockridge Dr has been a community concern for roughly a decade.
 - O'Malley Rd improvements will add pedestrian pathways along the road, but does not include a safe crossing for the school.
 - In November, the HCC Board asked the Municipality to look at the plan and determine what safety measures might be appropriate.
 - The MOA and their hired consultant are not recommending any plan changes/improvements at this time; suggest waiting for a two-year period (after work is completed in 2024) to elapse before reconsideration.
 - HCC Board has drafted a letter outlining concerns regarding the present plan.
 - Julie Coulombe asked what was the reason for recommending three years to get it fixed?
 - President Warfield said they recommended having the improvements completed so as to have measurable criteria for evaluating the issue. The HCC Board believes it is the desire of the community to have the issue addressed sooner.
 - Noel Rea stated the letter from the HCC Board was well-written. Noel asked if the MOA was waiting two years to see if a child gets hit by a vehicle? Or if there are specific metrics they will use in their evaluation?
 - President Warfield agreed having measurable criteria is important, as well as applying common sense.
 - John Weddleton said the issue has gotten more attention from the MOA and DOT. We should ask the MOA what their criteria are.
 - State money would appear to be the only option to pay for improvements; not sure how the city could put money into it.
 - President Warfield asked if it is correct that city money could be used for improvements if they address safe routes to schools?
 - John Weddleton said bonding may be an option. Recommended Assemblymembers investigate this option.
 - Assemblyman Randy Sulte asked if the study considered the impact on pedestrian/bicycle traffic levels with the addition of pathways along O'Malley Rd.

- President Warfield said the Safe Schools Transportation Committee was hesitant to endorse/encourage students crossing O'Malley Rd.
- Noel Rea said students have been crossing O'Malley Rd for years, it just has not been noted in the past.
- President Warfield stated the Board will include language regarding the need for specific, measurable criteria in any evaluations.
- HCC Board Member Redlinger noted Rockridge Dr will also need improvements, even if the O'Malley Rd crossing is addressed.
- John Weddleton stated in the chat, "A criteria might be a change in walkers living South of O'Malley. The path on the S side will make walking more attractive them, too."
- Noel Rea stated in the chat, "Why not put in some safety measures NOW and then assess the impact over time instead of waiting for the bad outcome? Try safety first, then see if they need to be removed. Slow speed now...."
- Matthew Harvey, Representative Kaufman's Chief of Staff, said his office will continue to include a request for funding for this issue annually.

3. **Announcements:**

- The next regular business meeting of the Hillside Community Council will be on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 6:30pm.

4. **Open Discussion:**

- None

5. **Adjournment:**

- President Warfield thanked all who attended the meeting.
- President Warfield requested a motion to adjourn:
 - Moved: Robert Redlinger, Seconded: Zac Johnson.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.