

Michael Oliveri

From: Amber Himburg [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 8:41 PM
To: E_Clerks; Corey Kimpson
Subject: Riverside Park Accessible Diamond

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Ms. Kimpson and City Council,

If the information I am receiving below is correct, I don't have words to express the disappointment I have in the city's potential decision to halt all process with the accessible diamond at Riverside Park.

Having had the opportunity to watch the Buddy League play as well as having teams from our leagues participate in exhibition games with these amazing athletes, I cannot understand why the city would want to make playing a game they love less accessible to these players. They clearly have a love for the game and should have every right, chance and opportunity to play on a diamond geared toward their needs as every other player in the city is.

As players and people who love the game, what Cam and his amazing coaches and volunteers do is nothing short of commendable and selfless. I can only imagine what goes into running a program of this magnitude.

As a League, we've approached to City Parks department to assure them that we are not only not concerned about the potential of not being able to rent and play on Kin 1 after the project is complete, but we asked if there was any way we could help make the project a success, including the potential of helping with fundraising opportunities. We have options of other diamonds to play on. Many of the participants in the Buddy League do not have that choice or opportunity.

I would urge Council to reassess the situation and continue with the project as planned. Of all the projects going on in the city, I feel that this would not only be a wonderful use of tax dollars but a beacon of inclusivity for the City, the Region and the surrounding communities - a premier diamond that is accessible for anyone and everyone because when everyone plays, everyone wins.

Thank you,
Amber Himburg

As many of you know, we've been working tirelessly to bring an accessible baseball diamond to our home at Riverside Park since 2019 — a dream that promises to give our athletes of all abilities a space where they can feel safe, included, and celebrated.

However, despite those years, and more recently, several MONTHS of advocacy and excitement around this project, we've just learned that City staff are recommending two decisions that would completely halt all progress:

1. **To pause all design work until sufficient funding for the project is secured**
2. **To suspend their application for the Jays Care Foundation Field of Dreams grant until they've raised the full project amount**