

October 6, 2024

To: Mayor Liggett and the Corporation of the City of Cambridge Councillors and Staff

Re: Accessibility Improvements to the Kin 1 Softball Field

We are writing as the members of the Sheffield Oldtimers Orthodox Fastball team. That is a fancy way of saying, we are a bunch of over 35-year-old men from Cambridge, Sheffield, Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Hamilton and Flamborough who play ball against other teams in the area. You may be wondering why we would write to you regarding the Kin 1 softball field, but if we could ask that you indulge us with a few minutes of your time, our reason for writing will be clear.

Two of our teammates, Cam Linwood and Mark Woodfield, both Cambridge people, coach the entire Waterloo Region Challenger Baseball Buddy League. The Buddy League graciously serves people of all ages, skill levels and backgrounds. As the website says, "Buddy League is something for everybody." Without the time that these men, and countless other women and men, dedicate to coach, organize, and fundraise, we are confident in saying this league would simply not exist. Trust us, if this league did not exist, that would be a shame.

Our team and the Buddy League teams share what has unexpectedly become an incredibly special and unique bond. Three seasons ago, Cam and Mark suggested our team play an exhibition night at Kin 1 against their teams. We played four teams in one night and we are pleased to say we lost all four games. We came away humbled by their enthusiasm and love for the game. We felt privileged to share a field with them. Far more important than wins or losses was the immense joy that everyone involved, especially our team, carried away from these games. These people are true athletes who love the game and everything that comes with it.

Those games made such an impact that our teams have continued to play each other ever since those first games. These Buddy League games are hands down the best night of our season. As the Buddy League players would proudly tell you, Sheffield is now 0-12 in these games. Several Buddy Leaguers and their families have come out to our league games and follow us through our playoffs. You may be interested to know that we just signed one of the Buddy Leaguers, Michael, to a new three-year contract to be our General Manager. We could not be more fortunate to have Michael and his friends be a part of our team. Just thinking about having them around makes us all smile.

By now, you get the idea that this bond between our teams is enduring and unbreakable. We want the best for the Buddy League, as we know you do as well. We also know and respect that the City of Cambridge Council has exceedingly complex decisions to make when it comes to budget expenditures. Your collective job is anything but easy.

With that said, we believe that if you make this investment in Kin 1, this is one of those projects that will answer your "Why am I a politician?" question. Long after you have all left the grind and

thankless nature of politics, collectively as a group, you would be able to point to a brand new and accessible Kin1 and say, yes, we did that.

We are sincerely and respectfully asking for Council to approve the funding application to the Jays Care Foundation and to put the project into next year's budget. As you know, Cam Linwood is in the unique position of also working for the Jays Care Foundation. We think the City of Cambridge and the Buddy League would benefit by giving Cam and his group the opportunity to keep moving forward with this project. We have known Cam for many years and can tell you that his passion for this project is unparalleled. As such, we know you would not be disappointed in allowing him the opportunity to move forward.

This is one of those rare and unique opportunities to create a legacy that will make Cambridge, the region, and the entire province of Ontario proud.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our letter.

With Respect,

The Sheffield Oldtimers Orthodox Fastball Team

Andy Broadbent

Jerry Collins

Rob Cox

Steve Fritz

Brad Gutscher

Mike Hamilton

Brett Humphrey

KJ Hutcheson

Jason Lemberger

Cam Linwood

Craig McGeachy

John Moelker

Blair Solonik

Bryan Tippin

Shane Wilson

Mark Woodfield