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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 9:15 PM
To: E_Clerks
Subject: Accessible baseball diamond

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Dear city council,

We were so excited to hear that you were building an accessible baseball diamond in the city of Cambridge . As a parent of a 5 year old girl who is diagnosed with autism, I've always thought that she could join regular program. Our first was dancing. My little one really stand out bc she needed to move constantly. We kinda pass the program due to her age and less behavior. Fast forward one year she was very different despite our efforts. Our 2nd regular program was cooking class . We were very insulted by the people who ran the program since they advertised in the autism fair. They were running the program with regular children . After that incident I've decided to find adaptive program. My daughter loves people. She wants to be part of the team (although it doesn't seem like it) but she doesn't know how. When we found the baseball running through kidsability recreation list we were very cautious. I did research as much as possible before we signed up even though it only cost \$35. If the program isn't successful it would do damage to our family and child. We are very grateful for this program and have utmost respect for the coach that ran this program. It was very organized and I've always get a response asap when I asked questions. It is beyond my expectations

We drive a long way every Thursday night so our child can decide to be part of the team . She has a tough time because there was sand in the field. She was throwing sand throughout the night and I had a very tough time coping with dust. Sometimes when there are players in the field running bases that even created more dust than I can handle. It is something that no one can control. There are many players that join this program which also create difficulties with waiting for turn . We also attend when there is potential rain

Please please please build this accessible baseball diamond. We would love to see artificial turf, a bigger pavilion to stand and wait if there is rain (autism children loves water but mine does have issues when it's rain and she gets wet - even a little), we would love to see a paved parking lot with proper lines and bigger parking (ie. Costco parking). We also would love to see a more sensory friendly bathroom. Our little one have issues with echo, automatic flush and hand dryer . Did you know in the town of tavitock they have a huge outdoor pavilion? Imagine a smaller town than ours. We had to drive there for an adaptive soccer program ! There are many things that normal children can do but for a child with disability we are very limited in things that we can do. This is the space that we share with our coaches and teams. This is our home . Please help build it as soon as possible. There are no limits for regular people why can't our child have the same ??

I hope this long email would help with future decisions. We are looking forward to seeing our child in baseball diamond where there is judgement free. She can be who she wants to. If she needs a break no one stare or say anything. She can join the program and doesn't age out. There is always a place for her to be part of a team. Please help make this happen soon, I beg of you.

Hang Truong