

From: [Robin Brown](#)
To: [Genevieve Scharback](#)
Subject: REQUEST FOR A SOLUTION-DURHAM BALLPARK
Date: February 15, 2022 2:20:56 PM

Good afternoon,

I would like to start by introducing myself to you. My name is Robin Brown. I have been an active volunteer in Durham the majority of my life. My husband and I are the Presidents of Durham Minor Ball, The Diamond Project and Co-Ed ball in Durham.

The Diamond Project was created in 2015 to rejuvenate our ballpark as it had deteriorated over the years. We hosted many fundraisers and have invested approximately \$70,000 into the park. Some of the upgrades include diamond resurfacing, new dugouts for the safety of the players, new fencing, trees, 2 playgrounds, a new shed, ground training/maintenance for the arena staff and a new kitchen and bathrooms for the pavilion.

The Diamond Project had a few programs in place to raise funds, one being our sponsorship signs. This program raised a significant amount of funding to put towards the upgrades.

We have made upgrades to the pavilion to operate fulltime as it did not in the past. I trained and hired students who were required to obtain a food handling certificate. The funds from this were allocated back into the park the first year of operation.

On behalf of the Diamond Project I presented to the council October of 2019 to discuss the ballpark. We the Diamond Project feel we have raised enough funds for the park and have brought it up to the standards baseball organizations such as OASA require to host tournaments.

I was not charged a monthly rental fee for the pavilion under the Diamond Project as the funds would be put back into the park. It was discussed at this meeting that I would be the sole operator of the pavilion going forward running the same program with the students I hired. At that point in 2019 there was no set fee for the pavilion and it was discussed that the pavilion be upgraded to the same standards as the rest of the concession stands in West Grey. The same fee would then be set in place for all concession stands. I requested a new fryer and grill at that point and was told it would not be a problem to replace or add them. These are two items that make the foodbooth successful and worth renting.

The first 2 years of covid baseball did not run as a regular season would, it was a liability to both my husband and myself personally. We are now back and will be operating baseball at full capacity this year and will require the use of the pavilion.

I have been in contact with Kodey Hewlett in regards to a contract for the pavilion. I was

told that there is no longer a fryer and the extinguishing system is no longer up to code [REDACTED]. I took it upon myself to contact the fire chief to see what direction to take in replacing this system and the cost of doing so. Within a day I received a response from Phil Shwardtz with an explanation. These systems range between \$5000-\$20,000 to replace. After making another call, I was able to get an extinguishing system donated by an anonymous donor, however the installation would cost approximately \$600 and would be installed by a licensed contractor by May 1st 2022. I have been informed by Kodey Hewlett that in spring of 2022 funding for a replacement fryer/grill was not supported by council through the budget process.

I am asking for a solution for my requests by the municipality.

1. A new or used electric double fryer that can produce an adequate amount for hosting large events. Price ranging \$800-1500.
2. A new or used electric grill \$500-800.
3. \$600 installation fee for the extinguishing system.
4. A program set in place for the sponsorship signs.
5. Contract approval for the lease of the pavilion for the 2022 ball season.

We host many tournaments throughout the ball season. This year we plan to host a tournament for OASA baseball May 13-15. These teams will travel to Durham from all over Canada to compete and prepare themselves for the Canadian National Championship. Information required for these tournaments are local restaurants, accommodations and information regarding the food booth.

I hope that we can have these requests resolved for this coming ball season.

Kind Regards,

Robin Brown
[REDACTED]