

PMBA

Pelham Minor Baseball Association



TOWN OF PELHAM BUDGET REQUEST MEETING
presentation materials

TO; Town of Pelham, Council

FROM; Pelham Minor Baseball Association

Matt Peters (President) - pres@pmba.ca [REDACTED]

DATE; To be presented Oct 2, 2024 at Town Council's public budget input meeting

Dear Town of Pelham Council;

Thanks again to you and your staff for supporting our community with services and facilities in Pelham for another great year of youth baseball!

As the Town of Pelham is our most important partner in delivering on our mission (<https://www.pmba.ca/content/about-us>), we feel it mutually prudent to engage in open discussions about the future of baseball in our community so we can share in planning for future success. In general, we are interested in discussing strategies that focus on developments that will enhance our capacity and safety. Capacity improvements will allow more community members to enjoy baseball, plus increase our ability to host more, larger and better tournament events which would draw in people from outside of Niagara. Safety improvements are critical to the retention of ball players and creating more positive experiences for young athletes. A big part of safety improvements also relates to preparing for increasing weather and climate challenges. We have compiled some suggestions on how we can work to accomplish these tasks.

Facility Adjustments

We would like to work towards consolidating more of our PMBA activities into the current facilities at Centennial Park, Fenwick. The C3 field and batting cages are fantastic facilities that we are all very proud of, but there are a few small requests we'd like to be considered for their optimization. The C1 diamond needs some general upgrades and some safety improvements. C2 is currently set-up as a softball diamond and we'd like to see that transitioned into a baseball focused facility. Here are the details of these requests;

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Batting Cage:

- Addition of lighting for safe operation in lower lighting. This will increase our potential usage times, especially for our older age groups and for spring/fall training in our rep programs.

C3:

- Drainage can be optimized to reduce weather cancellations
 - tile drains should be considered around the back of the diamond where the diamond has been sloped to drain to already. This water needs a better route out off the field and this would accomplish this. There is a drainage ditch close by that should be fine to utilize as an output.
- Consider trialing simple tarps on the heavily impacted areas of mound and plate as they seem to hold water more than other areas

C1:

- Reimagining of dugout layouts for increased safety. Batters warming up swing bats very close to spectators. Our main concern is with our young spectators (siblings, etc.) that use that area to travel between the game and the playground.
- 11U mound

C2 / Harold Black Park:

- We recommend that the C2 diamond should transition from a gravel adult softball diamond to a sand/clay youth baseball diamond.
- Currently there is 1 full sized diamond in Pelham and it is located at Harold Black Park. This diamond is very tired and needs work. Before the Town invests in a renovation here, we suggest reimagining its future use.
- "full sized" is 90' bases and 60'6" mound. 15U aged players and above would play at this sized diamond.
- We would like to see C2 designed to host 15U+ aged divisions with the ability to run younger age groups when needed (predominantly practices and tournaments)
- This plan hinges on converting the Harold Black diamond over to an adult softball diamond.
- The commissioner of the local softball league (Joe, 905-736-0561) supports this plan and sees how his league would benefit from consolidating their programs at Harold Black park
- This would require lights to be installed at Harold Black Park HBP2
- The baseball coach of E.L Crossley (Shawn, 905-964-7240) supports this plan and sees how the highschool baseball program would benefit from this transition

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Other general requests;

- As a follow-up to our budget request from last year, there are a few infrastructure projects that we are still very interested in pushing forward as soon as possible;
 - Systematic resurfacing of all gravel diamonds to sand/clay
 - Includes 2 North Pelham diamonds and 2 Centennial diamonds
 - All dugouts should get overhead protection from the elements (sun, rain)

The PMBA board and coach/parent volunteers are proud of our facilities and are dedicated to the up-keep of the diamonds. We are willing to perform basic maintenance duties to help keep diamonds in top shape. This of course would be in conjunction with the rec department and would require extra communication and training to ensure we do things right. The rec department has been made aware of our willingness in this regard.

We understand that budgets and timelines will not allow all projects to be successfully implemented, but we respectfully list our requests for discussion for the 2025 season and beyond. Furthermore, we are open and willing to work with the Town of Pelham for mutual benefit as potential government funding programs become available to help offset project costs.

Again, our not-for-profit board of volunteers would like to thank you for your commitment to baseball in our community and we look forward to open and progressive conversations regarding these requests.

Best Regards,

The Pelham Minor Baseball Association Board of Directors, represented by Matt Peters