

November 8, 2020

To the dog folks/citizens of the District of Summerland,

My name is Cynthia Cutt and I am the president of Summerland Minor Fastball. I am writing this letter to state publicly why I (and SMF) are opposed to using the Powell Beach ball diamond as a new dog park.

Many, many years ago, long before I moved here with my family, this ball diamond was built for Summerland Minor Girls fastball. It was funded by the local Kinsmen with the District of Summerland maintaining the up keep of the park with the help of Summerland Minor Girls fastball volunteers-players, coaches and parents.

This field is used for what is called Meet-in-the middle-games, (for teams from Kelowna to Cawston), weekday games, batting practice, team practices, our ball wind-up (awards night), church picnics, family picnics and is also used by Action Fest teams and more.

Over the years we have worked hard to make sure the bases are proper and in working order-this means using "drop-ins" with the proper measures in place for different age groups-also for pitching, which is different than baseball as it does not have a mound, but has different measures for distance.

Before the addition of Dale Meadows fields 4/5, this field was also used for tournaments for our group. With a team in each age division, (U10 to U19) it is used on opposing nights for practice and batting practice. We have a storage box there as well for the batting cage net and our ball things. The batting cage is located at Powell Beach to cut down on possible vandalism that may occur at Dale Meadows fields.

Over the years, we have been fairly lucky with volunteers that have helped maintain this field and get it ready for games, (dragging and lining the field and having the bases at proper measures, pitching etc). When we are low of volunteers, we still work hard to keep it ready for play, during our ball season. However, with the last few years of flooding, it was not high on the list for maintenance by the District of Summerland to take care of and had therefore run into a bit of disrepair.

We need this field! As a non reg/registered society, we have put many hours of blood sweat and tears into it for the kids of Summerland and beyond to play ball on! We have cleaned up garbage, shared with other users and we want to have the continuity of the use of this precious field! Our ball Association belongs to District 9, which is an area from Salmon Arm/Sicamous to Princeton. Many different teams have used this ball diamond over the years and will so in the future.

I have a dog of my own and love to go for walks. Getting outside is tremendous for one's soul. However, to change the use of this ballfield would be a detriment to our sport and therefore to the kids who play it. I vote to leave Powell Beach to the kids!

Cynthia Cutt  
President, Summerland Minor Fastball