Council says girls ball group doesn't have to move

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be returned and the fair board adhere to its 1982 agreement. That petition was backed by eight speakers, including coaches, parents, and players, at Monday's meeting.

Club member Ron Lefebvre said the fair board never gave an inch in negotiations, saying no to every solution the club proposed and without giving reasons why.

"Surprisingly, that tactic seemed to have worked because the town asked the Kinsmen to move," said Lefebvre. "The town did not force the fair board to look seriously at any alternatives (to the layout of the fair or scheduling of events)."

He said there were no safety issues (which is the fair board's claim) until the fair board added an education tent and horse show near or on the diamonds the girls were playing on.

Bob Malcolmson, both a former fair board and softball club member and who helped broker the original deal, said the fair board is being unnecessarily unyielding, and alternative solutions could be found -

including changing the fair's date, changing the location of the education tent, or rescheduling events.

"This issue is not about space or safety, as I believe I have shown there have been alternatives in the past and there can be in the future. This issue is about lack of co-operation, dialogue and scheduling on the part of fair organizers," said Malcolmson.

The softball club says it cannot change their date because they do not complete their schedule before then and diamonds in town are all booked the three weekends after. As well, the club says the Georgetown South diamonds have inadequate facilities to serve the 250-member club during its day of champs.

Supporting a resolution to give the softball club a permit to use four diamonds (C, Senior Citizens, Park School and Dump) at the fairgrounds during it day of champs weekend were Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, Councillors Rick Bonnette, John Day, Norm Elliott, Jane Fogal, Kathy Gastle, Moya Johnson and Bob Inglis.

Not supporting the resolution were Councillors Ron Chatten, Kevin Kuiack and Clark Somerville. The trio said they could not vote hearing only one side of the story.

However, both Councillors Johnson and Fogal argued that the fair board doesn't want to say any-

"They're here now and they're not speaking. That angers and frustrates me," said Fogal, referring to fair board members who sat in the public gallery at Monday's meeting.

Johnson, who sat in on some of the negotiating meetings with Serjeantson and Fogal, said the fair board said no to anything suggested. "And it would not be any different tonight. Their attitude is a very strong no. If people are not willing to compromise, it's our job to force them to compromise."

Fair board president Ralph Cunningham did not return this newspaper's call for comment.

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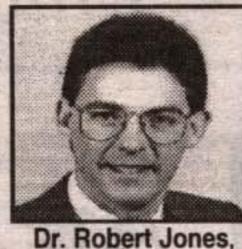
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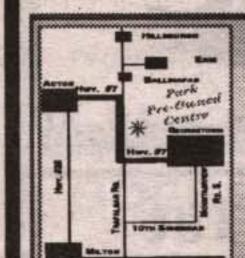
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