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NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

1809 NATIONAL AVENUE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

October 18, 1931

Honorable Walter Austin,
Mayor of San Diego

My dear Mr. Austin:

May I present to your consideration and ask you to present to the Council a suggestion of the Board of Directors of Neighborhood House for the expenditure of a small amount of the city's unemployment fund soon to be raised by bond issue?

Seeing the need for greater recreational facilities in the vicinity of Neighborhood House we want to propose a baseball field, to be made by the city on the tidelands between thirteenth and sixteenth streets. This land is owned by the city and leased for fifty years to the San Diego and Arizona Railroad. Mr. Annable, the president of the railroad company, has given his consent to the use of sufficient space for a baseball diamond. This space is far enough from the tracks to be perfectly safe. It is rather rough ground but not difficult to grade. It would be necessary to remove some stones, using them for filling at ~~the~~ end, and to do some levelling, scraping, and rolling. The only expense, other than for labor, would be for materials for a back stop. It would not be an expensive job and there would be practically no maintenance cost for the future. The Neighborhood House boys, superintended by their athletic coach, would do

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all they could to take care of it, if it could only be put in order.

It seems to us well worth while, as the only place in that part of the city where baseball can be played is at Memorial Junior High School, where the field is preempted by the school boys. The Rose Court Playground is equipped for so many other activities that there is not sufficient space for a real game of baseball, and the vacant lot south of Main street near Crosby has been abandoned because too many windows across the street were broken.

If the city would establish a municipal ball field on its property it would be used by the Neighborhood House ball teams for practice games, by the men of nearby industries in the noon hour and after hours in summer, and by idle men and boys in winter, thereby providing wholesome and popular recreation that may prevent mischief and petty crime.

This land is not being used by the railroad and would be available for recreational use by the city for a good many years. The very simple development which we suggest would be greatly appreciated by the neighborhood and would help to make up for the lack of parks in that part of town. Of course it would be used only by older boys and men but it would fill a real need for them.

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Hoping for sympathetic consideration and investigation of this matter and for favorable action on the part of the Council, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Mary G. Manston
President of the Neighborhood
House Association.

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FILED _____

ALLEN H. WRIGHT City Clerk

By FRED W. SICK Deputy

Communication from Neighborhood
House ~~for~~ suggesting improvement
under Bond issue for unemployment

Presented to Council and
ordered filed OCT 19 1931