



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP
Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: February 15, 2024

SUBJECT: Renaming Proposal for Barton Springs Bathhouse

This memorandum serves as the Austin Parks and Recreation Department's (Department) conclusion to the 90-day community engagement period following an application to rename the Barton Springs Bathhouse to the Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse at Barton Springs. This memo, the attached application (Attachment A), community input report (Attachment E), and additional back up documents are submitted in accordance with Austin City Code of Ordinances.

Process for Renaming a Park

The process for naming or renaming a park facility is in Austin City Code of Ordinances section [14-1-36](#), section [14-1-37](#), and section [14-1-39](#). On October 20, 2023, the Parks and Recreation Department director notified the Parks and Recreation Board, City Manager, and City Council of an application (Attachment A) to rename the Bathhouse at Barton Springs to the Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse at Barton Springs, which began a 90-day period to receive public comment. The 90-day period ended on January 18, 2024. During that time, the department's Communications and Engagement Unit performed the following actions:

- Notified the community of the naming proposal through several outlets:
 - email notification
 - social media notification
 - in-person "pop-up" events at Barton Springs Pool
- Developed and distributed a survey that allowed community members to indicate support or nonsupport of the bathhouse renaming proposal.

Following the 90-day period, the director is required to submit the application and any other nominations or endorsements to the Parks and Recreation Board.

The Bathhouse at Barton Springs

The Barton Springs Bathhouse was built in 1947 replacing an earlier wooden structure at the same location. The one-story masonry building is attributed to Dan Driscoll, with support from Delmar Groos.

The building style is Streamline Moderne, which is a late Art Deco style characterized by curving forms and horizontal lines. The building is architecturally and historically significant and is a State Antiquities Landmark and listed to the National Register of Historic Places.

Names Associated with the Bathhouse

Two other names associated with the Bathhouse are B.J. “Buster” Robinson Sr. and Beverly S. Sheffield:

- In 1987, the Austin City Council Resolution number 870319-15 approved naming “a portion of Barton Springs Bathhouse in Zilker Park (old office and two basket rooms) the B.J. ‘Buster’ Robinson Sr., Information Center” (Attachment B).
- An application for the naming of the Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center was sent to City Council on May 8, 1997. There is no record in City Council minutes from 1997 reflecting the naming process. The application is attached (Attachment C). An Austin-American Statesman article from June 16, 1997 (Attachment D) confirms the naming.

Both naming processes preceded Austin’s current code, but most align with what is defined in current code as a “park feature:”

“PARK FEATURE means a recreational improvement that is not considered a park facility and is a major component of a park facility.” (Code 14-1-36)

From the research conducted by the Department, the City has not undertaken a formal naming process for the Barton Springs Bathhouse building in its entirety. Should the decision be made to rename the Barton Springs Bathhouse, as outlined in the application, it is appropriate for the existing feature names to remain.

Joan Means Khabele Background

Joan Means Khabele was born in Austin, Texas, during a time when the City of Austin segregated the city’s neighborhoods and public amenities through the systematic enactment of racist policies. Communities of people of color thrived and formed vibrant, dynamic, and close-knit communities in East Austin despite the injustices of racial segregation. Parks were segregated by race during this era, and Black Austinites were not permitted to swim at Barton Springs. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that separating children in public schools based on race was unconstitutional. In 1956, Ms. Khabele, the oldest child of civil rights activists Bertha Sadler Means and James Means, was one of the first Black students to enroll at all-white Austin High School. When Ms. Khabele and other Black students were denied the opportunity to swim at Barton Springs during the Austin High School annual senior picnic, she protested by jumping in the pool despite policies forbidding Black people to swim in a pool designated for only white people. Ms. Khabele, along with other activists, bravely defied the segregationist policies of the time during these “swim ins,” which eventually led to the integration of Barton Springs pool and other recreational facilities in the city. As a young adult, Ms. Khabele earned degrees from the University of Chicago and UCLA, worked in the Peace Corps, and taught in several African countries. She later returned to Austin, where she raised three children and had eight grandchildren. Ms. Khabele passed away in 2021. More information is available in the [submitted application for renaming the Bathhouse](#).

Community Engagement

The Department recognized the wide interest in the renaming proposal for the Bathhouse as a city-wide facility. During the 90-day period, the Department notified the stakeholders contact list from the Zilker Park Vision Plan process, posted multiple social media posts, and connected with key individuals, such as the Khabele family. Alongside the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation team, staff members were at in-person pop-up events on October 24, 2023, in both the morning and evening.

Interested community members were encouraged to indicate whether or not they supported the application for renaming the Bathhouse. Additionally, individuals were encouraged to share comments.

Community Survey Results Show Significant Support

The survey tool logged 1,378 views with 315 participants. Overall results showed significant support for renaming the facility with 86% of respondents endorsing the renaming and 14% not in support (307 responses to this question).

Comments Supporting Renaming

A review of the 204 comments on the survey indicates overwhelming support of the proposal to rename the bathhouse after Joan Means Khabele. Comments primarily touch on the positive qualities of Ms. Khabele and the ways she influenced people's lives.

Comments Against Renaming

There were 20 of the 204 comments that did not indicate support for the bathhouse renaming. Following are the responses that the Department determined were not in support of the proposed renaming:

- 13 comments expressed explicit nonsupport of renaming the bathhouse:
 - 5 centered around not changing Austin or erasing "Old Austin."
 - 3 cited Buster Robinson's name in the Bathhouse as the reason.
 - 1 called the renaming "political."
 - 2 suggested reserving the space for an Indigenous name.
 - 1 suggested a different name.
 - 1 said, "No. Nope. Nay. Negative."
- 7 Comments expressed concern about the renaming proposal:
 - 4 expressed concern that the Bathhouse already had an association with Buster Robinson's name.
 - 2 suggested naming the surrounding site for an Indigenous name rather than a focus on only the Bathhouse.
 - 1 expressed a desire to choose from more than one proposed option.

All comments can be reviewed in Attachment E.

Next Steps

According to section [14-1-39\(H\)](#), after receiving this memorandum, the Parks and Recreation Board shall schedule and conduct a public hearing on renaming the Bathhouse at Barton Springs. The Board shall make a written recommendation to City Council not later than the 45th day after receiving this

memorandum, which is March 31, 2024. If the board does not meet the deadline, the Board will be deemed to have made no recommendation.

City Council will make the final decision thereafter.

Attachments

- A. Application for Renaming Bathhouse at Barton Springs
- B. Resolution 870319-15 naming portions of Bathhouse after Buster Robinson
- C. Application for naming Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center at Bathhouse, May 8, 1997
- D. Austin-American Statesman article from June 16, 1987
- E. Renaming Survey Report

Attachment A



Application for Naming a Park Facility or Park

Please follow the instructions below when applying for the naming or renaming a facility or property.

1. Complete the application by providing detailed information about the park facility or park to be named or renamed. Please include any supplemental information such as articles, letters of support and signature list with the application. The application must contain documentation of public support for the proposed name. Public support materials must be provided to the Parks and Recreation Department.
2. Please provide payment of the Application Fee, \$365.00 in the form of a cashier's check. Checks should be made out to City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and submitted with the application.
3. A Sign Fabrication Fee in the amount of \$940.00 will apply, should City Council approve the application. A cashier's check should be made out to City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.
4. Send all submittals to:
Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR), Attn: Christine ChuteCanul,
919 W 28th 1/2 St. Austin, TX 78705
5. Questions may be directed to Christine Chute Canul via email:
christine.canul@austintexas.gov or by phone: (512) 974-9515

Current Name of Park Facility or Park:

Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool (no official name)

Nominated Name for the Park Facility or Park:

Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool

Identify Type of Park Facility to be named or renamed:

☐	Park	☐	Pool Complex	☐	Sports Complex	☐	Trail
☐	Recreation Center	☐	Cultural Center	☐	Senior Center	☒	Other Significant Building

If other is selected, please specify:

Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool

If renaming a Park Facility, it must be initiated by the City Council, City Manager, PARD Director, or Community member(s) / group(s). Please provide documentation stating such initiation and indicate who initiated the renaming:

City Council (Name):

City Manager (Name):

PARD Director (Name):

Community Member(s) / Group(s):

See attached list

If nominating the name of an individual, include a biographical description of nominee (if the nomination is not an individual's name, justification for the suggested name):

See attached bio

Describe how the individual has provided a valuable contribution and creditable service to the park system and the city (include the person's involvement, and connection, if any, to the Park Facility or to the activity for which the park facility will or is being used):

Joan Means Khabele's courageous leadership when she was a teenager to protest segregation at Barton Springs Pool sparked the civil rights era swim-ins that eventually led to the desegregation of Barton Springs Pool. She organized classmates to sign petitions and led a protest at an Austin City Council meeting. She led the first swim-in at Barton Springs Pool during her senior class picnic held at Zilker Park. Joan organized multiple swim-ins where Austin High School students were joined by students from Huston-Tillotson University, The University of Texas at Austin and St Edwards University in protest of segregation leading to the desegregation of Barton Springs Pool.

If the basis of the nomination is a culturally significant contribution, provide a description of the cultural, geographic, or historic significance to the surrounding area or community in which the facility exists:

Barton Springs Pool is the soul of Austin. The crown jewel of our city. It is the gathering place for people from all over Austin and around the world. A true oasis of history, nature, and recreation located in the very heart of Austin. When people think of Austin, they think of Barton Springs. When people visit Barton Springs, they walk through the gates and you can hear them exhale sighs of wonder, "it's so beautiful". They are not just talking about the natural beauty of the pool, they see it is a wonderful gathering place that welcomes everyone from all walks of life. It is where we as a community come together to enjoy life with our families, friends and loved ones.

Joan Means Khabele's vision, leadership skills and courage to make her vision a reality made Barton Springs Pool what it is today. We owe it to her memory, and to everyone who enters the bathhouse, to recognize her significant contributions to the City of Austin.

Is the individual or entity deeding the land to the City for a park facility? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is the individual or entity contributing the estimated cost of at least 50% of the development of the Park Facility and providing an endowment for the estimated 20-year maintenance costs of the Park Facility as estimated by the PARD director? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Name of requester:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Naming the Barton Springs Pool Bathhouse for Joan Means Khabele

The proposal to recognize Joan Means Khabele by gracing the bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool with her name carries an extraordinary potential to inspire. Joan's youthful valor, marked by her resolute stand against segregation, sparked a movement that rippled through the civil rights era. Her tenacity not only reshaped the heart of our city but also paved the way for the desegregation of Barton Springs Pool—making it a place of joy for all and a beacon of change, inclusivity and unity for our community.

The bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool should be named to honor Joan Means Khabele because her courageous leadership when she was a teenager to protest segregation at the pool sparked the civil rights era swim-ins that eventually led to the desegregation of Barton Springs Pool. Her actions touched the hearts of the city, changed our city's values and led to the desegregation of the pool.

Joan was born October 22, 1942 at Holy Cross Hospital in east Austin. She attended Blackshear Elementary School and Kealing Junior High. She was among the third group of students to integrate Austin High School in the late 1950s. In her senior year, after not being allowed to swim at her high school senior picnic, she was the first Black person to jump into Barton Springs Pool in an act of civil disobedience. In doing so, she sparked a movement of swim-ins that took place on a weekly basis throughout the summer of 1960.

Joan opposed segregationist policies forbidding black Austinites from swimming in Barton Springs Pool. She organized her classmates to sign petitions and led a protest at an Austin City Council meeting. She led the first swim-in at Barton Springs Pool during her senior class picnic held at Zilker Park. Joan organized multiple swim-ins where Austin High School students were joined by students from Huston-Tillotson University, The University of Texas at Austin and St Edwards University in protest of segregation leading to the desegregation at Barton Springs Pool and Zilker Park years before passage of the 1964 federal civil rights laws.

The City of Austin proclaimed April 9, 2022 as Joan Means Khabele Day in the City of Austin and held a ceremony to honor her at Barton Springs Pool attended by the Mayor of Austin, several City Council Members, members of Joan's family, as well as many other community members excited to recognize Joan and her valuable contribution to making Barton Springs a place of beauty open for all Austinites and visitors from around the world to enjoy.

Joan's activism began in the 1950s when she was among the third group of students to integrate Austin High. She remained active in the civil rights movement after graduating from the elite University of Chicago and she later earned a master's degree in African Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

After tutoring kids in Chicago, Joan joined the Peace Corps and moved to Ethiopia. After her return to the US, she met her husband, Dr. Paseka Edwin Khabele, who is from South Africa, while he was earning his doctorate at Fordham University in New York City.

Joan founded the African Studies departments at the national universities of Zambia, Botswana, and Lesotho, and her influence in African universities extended as far north as Nigeria. She remained active through her life in leadership roles for nonprofits in the U.S. and Africa.

She was a consummate classical pianist, sang in the National Opera of Lesotho and in the choir of St. James' Episcopal Church in Austin. She played on the national tennis team of Lesotho, was an avid gardener and art collector, and supported countless children with their educations in Lesotho and South Africa.

Joan and her husband had three children — Dineo, Inonge and the late Letsie “Khotso” Khabele, the founder of Austin's Khabele School — and eight grandchildren.

An educator, activist, musician and avid traveler, Joan was an active member of the Town Lake Chapter of the Links Inc. and served on the boards of the Austin-Maseru Sister Cities Committee, St. Stephen's Episcopal School and the Khabele School (now Headwaters), which was founded by her late son Khotso Khabele.

Joan Means Khabele died in October 2021. She was 78.

Let's hear from Joan in her own words. In an interview with Austin PBS in 2014, Joan spoke about her successful effort to desegregate Barton Springs Pool:

“Barton Springs was a special place because it's freshwater, it's in a beautiful setting. The Park itself was superior. We knew about it, but we knew that we could not go into that water. Period. Historically, Black people were there and they used to swim there. They might've even washed their clothes there for all we know, but then segregation, the Jim Crow era, brought in rules that, “This is for whites only.” There was no park in Austin that we could go to other than Rosewood Park. There was no pool we could swim in other than Rosewood Park pool.

So it was segregated, but then all of that changed with the school integration decision, the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of 1954. And Austin decided to go as slowly as possible by starting with the 12th Grade.

Integration came for me in '57 when I left Kealing Junior High and went to Austin High. We were scared to death. We were scared to death because our first day of school was the day after Little Rock and Little Rock really hit the news because Governor Faubus got troops out and, you know, didn't let the Black kids in. And the white parents were shouting at the Black kids, and throwing things at them, and threatening violence, and that was terrible. So the very next day, I came to Austin High.

I had been valedictorian at Kealing, come from my father's a professor at Huston-Tillotson. My mom's an educator, later became a supervisor in the independent school district. So we had a very middle class background. And so I felt, if I'm going to a different school, I should take advantage of everything. So I was known because I joined everything and there were a lot of incidents where horrible things happened because I joined them.

The principal saw me as a sort of leader of the 8 Black kids in my class. He called me in in the spring of 1960 and said, "I see you as a leader of the kids in your class, and I want you to go back to them and tell them that I'm very sorry, but you cannot attend the senior picnic." And everybody had been looking forward to the senior picnic and for eons, that's where Austin had their senior picnics. They had their senior picnics at Zilker Park and swam at Barton Springs. So this was a custom. Now, we had been here for three years. I was upset. I cried. You know, I walked out because he said, "It's the law." These are Jim Crow laws. Nothing he can do about the law. And so I went out and cried and told my friends, "Ah, we're not supposed to go to the senior picnic."

And then started organizing after that and fortunately, I wasn't really thinking about it at the time, but fortunately I brought in some 11th graders, which means once I went off to the University of Chicago, there are still people who can carry on if we failed to open up Barton Springs and Zilker Park.

So what we did was got parents to sign petitions, got students to sign petitions so we had 11th and 12th grades, grade students involved in this. Most of my friends at Austin High were people kind of on the edge like me. They could be Quakers. They could be Unitarians. Jewish, whoever was sort of on the edge of West Austin society as such.

I'm talking about Austin High being a place that was so great that the Governor's children went to Austin High. The legislator's children went to Austin High. The rich folks in West Austin, Tarrytown, you name it, went to Austin High. Very few kids went to private school.

We decided to go to the City Council. I remembered going there without my parents' permission and I think I lied to them that I was at some kind of afterschool activity. We were saying they should open up Barton Springs. Open up Zilker Park. I think we were thinking not only for our picnic but also just open it up. Now, that could raise a lot of blood pressures in the white community of that day.

I kind of slightly remember maybe we were allowed to go to the Park, but never to get into the water. We were not to get into that water and, you know, there's all sorts of ignorance, you know, about getting in too close or in an intimate environment with Black people on the part of whites.

So what we did (after this) was we swam-in. A swim-in is you just jump in and then they come and pull you out. You go around the building. You go back in and you just do this all day. There was no fence around Barton Springs at that time. So I really believe that once we started the swim-in, we got in touch with a couple of university students and before we knew it, University of Texas, Huston-Tillotson, St. Ed's, all kinds of young people joined in this protest.

So that summer, we failed, so this just continued to be swim-in, swim-in, swim-ins. Then the next summer more swim-ins and eventually Beverly Sheffield (Austin Parks and

Recreation Director) must've been part of that decision to go ahead to open both Barton Springs and the Park to anybody.

And as far as I know—and this is, I'm not trying to take credit for anything—but as far as I know, this began the activist stage of civil rights in Austin. Before it was, you know, test cases. But opening Barton Springs and Zilker Park, I believe, really started a lot of other things in other areas of the city.”

Today, Barton Springs Pool is the soul of Austin. The crown jewel of our city. It is the gathering place for people from all over Austin and around the world. A true oasis of history, nature, and recreation located in the very heart of Austin. When people think of Austin, they think of Barton Springs. When people visit Barton Springs, they walk through the gates and you can hear them exhale sighs of wonder, “it’s so beautiful”. They are not just talking about the natural beauty of the pool, they see it is a wonderful gathering place that welcomes everyone from all walks of life. It is where we as a community come together to enjoy life with our families, friends and loved ones.

Joan Means Khabele’s vision, leadership skills and courage to make her vision a reality made Barton Springs Pool what it is today. We owe it to her memory, and to everyone who enters the bathhouse, to recognize her significant contributions to the City of Austin. I imagine a photo or work of art of Joan near the entrance of the bathhouse and can see people nodding in silent tribute, throwing her a kiss or waving thank you as they enter the gates and touch the soul of Austin.

I look forward to seeing parents bend down to answer their children’s questions while they wait in line, “Who is that, mom?”

Joan's story embodies what Martin Luther King, Jr., reminded us about when he said “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” Gracing the bathhouse with Joan’s name will create moments of reflection that echo the past while propelling us into the future. A young girl once barred from entering the bathhouse due to segregation has now evolved into an enduring symbol of courage, activism, and transformation. Renaming the bathhouse in her honor isn't just a tribute; it's a powerful recognition of the strides we've taken and the path forward we will still tread.

Her actions, like pebbles cast into a pond, have sent ripples that traverse time, touching hearts through the decades and stretching into the uncharted future. When Joan's name graces the bathhouse, a place she was once denied entrance, those ripples of change will reverberate into a resounding legacy. With every footstep through its entrance, visitors will feel the resonance of Joan's stand against segregation—a stand that continues to inspire hearts across generations.

This tribute isn't confined to the past; it's an investment in the future. By honoring Joan in this way, we're making a commitment to a future that mirrors her ideals of equality and inclusivity. Just as her bravery ignited a movement that opened Barton Springs Pool for everyone, this act to rename the bathhouse becomes a constant reminder that progress isn't static—it evolves, adapts,

and thrives. Every child walking through doors to Barton Springs Pool, every family gathering by the poolside, will be touched by Joan's spirit, guiding us towards a brighter, more just future for Austin.

Joan Means Khabele's actions are the seeds that continue to germinate and shape Austin's future. Renaming the bathhouse after her isn't merely a celebration of her courage; it's a declaration of our collective dedication to a more inclusive, accessible tomorrow. Her story and the bathhouse's renaming intersect to craft a narrative that extends beyond history—a narrative of progress, inclusivity, and the transformative power of a young girl's actions to weave a new tapestry of community.

Through the doors of the bathhouse, a gateway of inclusivity stands open—a testament that accessibility is not just a concept; it's an embodiment of ideals. Where once the bathhouse symbolized exclusion, it now symbolizes accessibility, welcoming everyone irrespective of their background. Joan's legacy becomes intertwined with the essence of a place that beckons forth a new era, where the barriers of the past give way to the possibilities of the present and future.

As the doors swing open, they swing open to all—a space where equity and unity thrive. Joan's legacy extends beyond the present, casting its influence on tomorrows yet to unfold. Here, individuals from diverse walks of life will convene, connect, and shape a future rooted in access, acceptance, and shared humanity. Joan Means Khabele's story will continue to remind us that one person's unwavering courage and ability to harness the power of her community has the power to ignite change that reverberates through time, inspiring us to stand up for justice and forge a better world for all.

**Community Members Initiating Naming of Bathhouse for
Joan Means Khabele**

Inonge Khabele
A. A. Means
Rebecca Roddy
Scott Cobb
The Rev. Eileen O'Brien
Steven Brown
Teri Adams
Julia Hatch
Jonathan Selfridge
Robin Rather
Tanya Payne
Dana S. Hegar
Elleyna Thompson
Elliot Kralj
Andrew Chin
Jamie Bush
Gloria Rubac
Kayte VanScoy
Pauline Rubben
Avery Maness
Becca Golden
Pat Hartwell Harper
Miraba DiRaddo
Chris DiRaddo



Ceremonial Moment of Silence & Splash
HONORING
Joan Means Khabele

OCTOBER 22, 1942 - OCTOBER 11, 2021



SATURDAY
APRIL 9
10am-12pm



BARTON SPRINGS POOL
CEREMONY HONORING JOAN MEANS KHABELE

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022, 10:00 A.M.
2201 WILLIAM BARTON DRIVE, AUSTIN, TX 78746

This is an outdoor park event, please dress comfortably.
Swimsuits encouraged for those wishing to "splash" into the pool after the ceremony and moment of silence.



The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. For assistance please contact (512) 974-3914 or Relay Texas 7-1-1.



James Means, Bertha Sadler Means and their daughter, Joan Means Khabele, pose for a family portrait during the 1940s



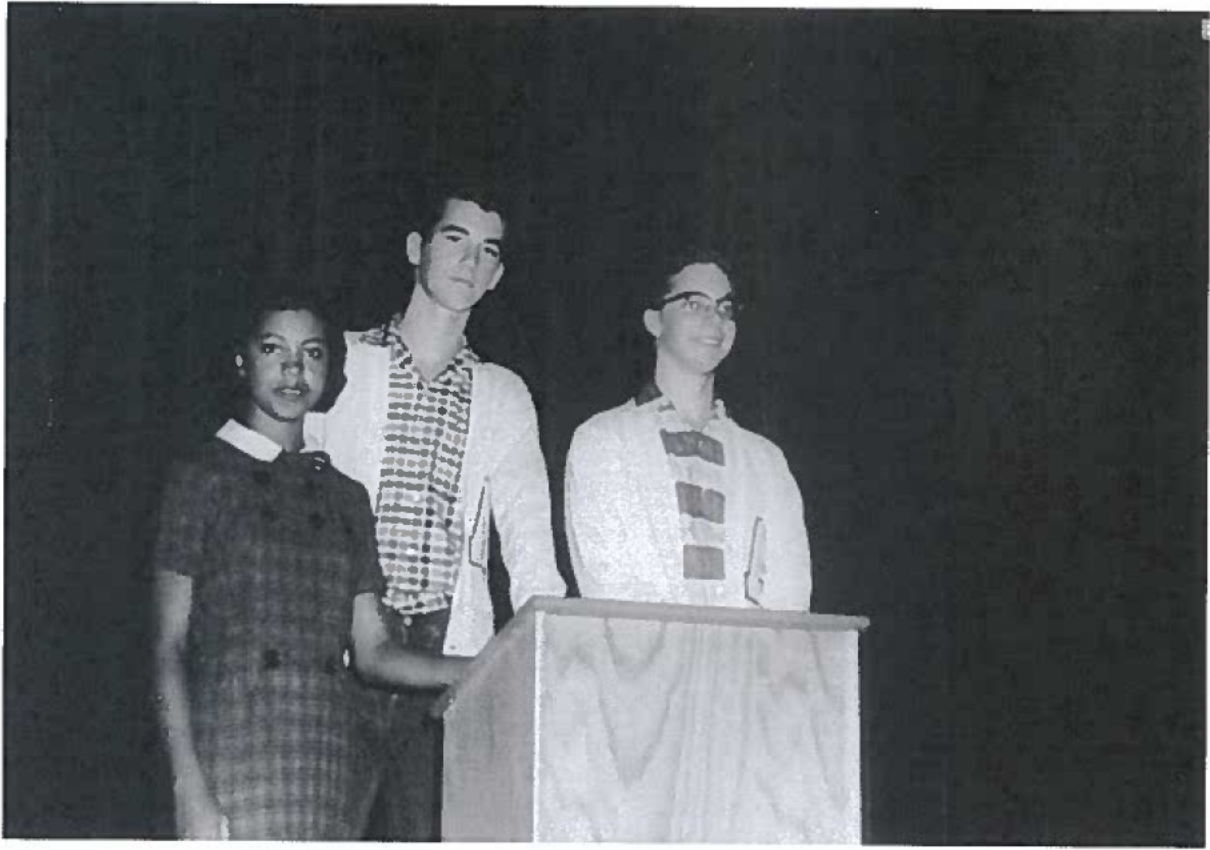


Joan Means Khabele (center) was in the third small group of students to integrate Austin High School in the 1950s. | Photo provided by Austin Parks and Recreation





Austin High Red Jackets 1959



Austin High Student Council 1959



Austin City Council MINUTES

For MARCH 19, 1987 - 1:00 P.M.

Attachment B: Resolution Naming Portion of Bathhouse after Buster Robinson

Council Chambers, 307 West Second Street, Austin, Texas

City Council

Frank C. Cooksey
Mayor

John Treviño, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem

Council Members
Mark Rose
Smoot Carl-Mitchell
Sally Shipman
George Humphrey
Charles E. Urdy

Jorge Carrasco
City Manager

Elden Aldridge
City Clerk

Memorandum To:

Mayor Cooksey called to order the meeting of the Council, noting the presence of all Councilmembers.

MINUTES APPROVED

The Council, on Councilmember Shipman's motion, Councilmember Carl-Mitchell's second, approved minutes for regular meeting of March 12, 1987 and special meeting of March 8, 1987. (6-0 Vote, Councilmember Rose out of the room)

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fred Michaelis invited Council to attend a showing of "Urban Subsistence Survival" at the Unity Church on Del Curto. Mr. Jesus Miranda discussed bidding practices by Public Works, Design Engineering Section. Mr. Sidney B. Grief and Charles R. Jones discussed an ordinance presented by Citizens Against Pornography. Mr. James Pinedo did not speak. Mr. Pete Dwyer talked about lack of action on approach mains. Mr. Jim Fellers did not appear. Mr. Terry Davis talked about procurement practices and procedures. Col. Don F. Rettberg discussed status report on Infant-Parent Building Project.

BOARD REPORT POSTPONED

Indefinitely postponed is the Retirement Boards proposal to reduce level of local disclosure.

OLD BUSINESS - ZONING ORDINANCES

The Council, on Councilmember Carl-Mitchell's motion, Councilmember Shipman's second, passed through second and third readings of ordinances amending Chapter 13-2A of the Austin City Code (Zoning Ordinance) to cover the following changes: (7-0 Vote, unless otherwise noted)

3/19/87

- (1) JOHN A. JOSEPH
C14-85-244.11
- Generally located
North of West Braker
Lane and East of
U. S. 183
- From Interim "SF-2"
to "LI"

First reading on January 30, 1986, (7-0). Conditions have been met as follows: Restrictive Covenant incorporating conditions imposed by Council has been executed.

- (2) RON F. BEARDEN
C14-85-288.126
- 6804 Bee Caves Road
- From Interim "RR"
to "CS"

First reading on June 18, 1986, (7-0). Conditions have been met as follows: Restrictive Covenant incorporating conditions imposed by Council has been executed.

- (3) PHILIP C. JOSEPH
C14-85-149 (part)
- Part of the 46 1/2
acre tract located at
Parmer Lane, North
Lamar & I.H. 35
- From Interim "SF-2"
to "LO"
- 5-2 Vote, Council-
members Shipman and Carl-Mitchell voted No.

First reading on December 12, 1985, (5-2). Council-
members Snoot Carl-Mitchell and Sally Shipman voted "NO".
Conditions have been met as follows: Restrictive Covenant
incorporating conditions imposed by Council has been executed.

- (4) INDUSTRIAL LAMINATES
CORP.
By Robert D. Kelly
C14-84-320
- 1800-1810 E. 4th
Street
- From "MF-3"
to "LI"

First reading on December 6, 1984, (6-0). Councilmember
Mark Rose absent. Conditions have been met as follows:
Development restricted to that shown on site plan attached
as an exhibit to the ordinance. Right-of-Way on East
Fourth Street has been dedicated by street deed.

CONSENT ORDINANCES

The Council, on Councilmember Carl-Mitchell's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's second, waived the requirement for three readings and finally passed the following ordinances in one consent motion: (6-0 Vote, Councilmember Humphrey out of the room)

Operating Budget Amendment

Amended the 1986-87 Annual Operating Budget by transferring \$243,750.00 from the Aviation Fund Ending Balance to increase the CIP transfer to \$5,832,658.00 and appropriating these funds to the Taxiway Reconstruction and Overlay Project.

Item Postponed

Postponed indefinitely is consideration of amending Ordinance No. 860717-X, Article V, Section 2-3-72(c) to delete inclusion of the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees, the Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund Board of Trustees, and the Police Retirement Board of Trustees in that Section, and consider amending Ordinance No. 860717-X Article V, Section 2-3-72(d) to include these three boards.

Commission on Status of Women

Approved amending the ordinance creating the Commission on the Status of Women to allow the member emeritus voting privileges.

Postponed Item

Postponed to April 2, 1987 consideration of waiving the Steiner Ranch Project from the Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance.

Speed Zones

Amended the Austin City Code to modify the following speed zones:

11-2-100(e) 55 mph

Delete: Manchaca Road from William Cannon Drive to South City Limits
(365 feet south of Shiloh Drive)

11-2-100(d) 50 mph

Delete: Manchaca Road from Matthews Lane to South City Limits (365 feet south of Shiloh Drive)

11-2-100(c) 45 mph

Add: Manchaca Road (FM 2304) from Matthews Lane (mile point 3.0) to 1,082.4 feet south of West Slaughter Lane (mile point 5.276)

ITEM POSTPONED

Postponed to March 26, 1987 is consideration of amending Ordinance No. 870219-R to require purchasers of a single-family attached residence to consult an attorney.

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Urdy's second, adopted the following resolutions in one consent motion: (6-0 Vote, Councilmember Humphrey out of the room)

Release of Easement

Authorized release of the following easement:

- a. A 15' Public Utility Easement of record in Volume 83, Page 107C, Plat Records of Travis County, Texas, located on Lots 1 and 2 of Burge Burnet Subdivision Two. (Request submitted by Don Sigety of Baker-Aicklen & Associates on behalf of his client Mayfield-Wilkerson-Jefferson Partnership #3)

License Agreement

Approved entering into the following license agreement: To allow the encroachment of a canopy into the East 5th Street right-of-way adjoining 504 East 5th Street. (Request submitted by Patrick Riordan on behalf of Young-Zapp Joint Venture)

Contracts Approved

Approved the following contracts: (Except for "d" which was postponed)

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. H & H CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION
P. O. Box 6460
Austin, Texas | - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM -
Miscellaneous Drainage Improvements
No. 1, Phase C, including water and
wastewater adjustments, Transportation
and Public Services Department
Total \$843,944.00 C.I.P. Nos.
85/60-03, 86/22-04 & 86/23-04 |
| b. THE CADENCE GROUP, INC.
3101 Bee Caves Road, Suite 301
Austin, Texas | - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM -
Hornsby Bend Wastewater Treatment
Plant Support Facilities Complex,
Transportation and Public Services
Department
Total \$4,118,800.00 C.I.P. No.
85/23-15 |
| c. W. K. JENNINGS ELECTRIC COMPANY
INC.
1707 Dungan Lane
Austin, Texas | - Installation of Microwave Tower
Foundations at various substations,
Electric Utility Department
Total \$74,100.00 87-C063-JJ |
| 5-0 Vote, Councilmember Rose abstained, Councilmember Humphrey out of the room. | |
| d. BLAME TREE SERVICES, INC.
1236 Cude Cemetery Road
Willis, Texas
<u>POSTPONED TO 4/2/87</u> | Work Force for Tree Trimming and
Line Clearing Work, Electric
Utility Department
Total \$949,598.00 87-C072-JJ |
| e. MEDLINE
2707 Hopewell Court
Leander, Texas | - Surgical Wraps, Brackenridge
Hospital
Twelve (12) Month Supply Agreement
Total \$37,663.92 BS7-072 |

Approach Mains

Approved the following approach mains:

819 McNeill Cut-off Joint Venture (Wastewater)
1011 82.5 Acre Blue Goose Rd. Tract (Wastewater)

Postponed indefinitely are: 947 Johnston 10 Acre Tract (Water)
City Cost Participation
948 17 Acre Boston Lane Tract (Water)
City Cost Participation
989 17 Acre Boston Lane Tract (Waste-
water)

Westview on Lake Austin

Approved an amendment of restrictive covenant for Westview on Lake Austin, Phase A, Subdivision.

Texas Department of Human Services Contract

Approved amending the Texas Department of Human Services contract providing hospital-based caseworkers and data communications access.

Coal Contract

Approved entering into a short-term coal contract with Elk River Resources, Inc.

Bell County Health Facilities

Approved the use of the proceeds of revenue bonds issued by the Bell County Health Facilities Development Corporation to finance health facilities to be located within the boundaries of the City of Austin; requesting that the Bell County Health Facilities Development Corporation loan certain proceeds of its revenue bonds to St. David's Community Hospital; and consenting to the acquisition of certain facilities by the Hospital with the proceeds of such loan.

Circuit 961

Approved determining the route of, acquiring easements and fee titles for, Circuit 961, Jollyville to Howard Lane

Circuit 974

Approved determining the route of, acquiring easements and fee titles for, Circuit 974, Dessau to Sprinkle.

Dessau Electric Substation

Approved locating, surveying and determining compensation to be paid for said interest, and negotiating for and acquiring fee titles for Dessau Electric Substation.

Item Postponed

Staff requested indefinite postponement of a resolution to consider determining the route of, acquiring easements and fee titles for, and constructing Circuit 3126, Austrop to McNeil.

Barton Springs Bathhouse Renamed

Approved naming a portion of the Barton Springs Bathhouse in Zilker Park (old office and two basket rooms) the B.J. "Buster" Robinson Sr., Information Center. (Recommended by Parks and Recreation Board)

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT

The Council, on Councilmember Shipman's motion, Councilmember Urdy's second, waived the requirement for three readings and finally passed an ordinance amending the 1986-87 Annual Operating Budget by allocating \$20,000 from the Social Services Contingency Fund to Community Advocates for Teens and Parents, Inc., for the establishment of a new shelter program, with the caveat they meet with Department of Housing and Community Services to work out a budget for their money. (6-1 Vote, Mayor Pro Tem Trevino voted No)

AUSTIN METROPOLITAN AREA ROADWAY PLAN

The Council, on Councilmember Rose's motion, Councilmember Urdy's second, adopted a resolution to adopt Criteria 1 and 2 and add Koenig Lane from the Austin Transportation Study Plan for analysis for potential amendment to the Austin Metropolitan Area Roadway Plan. (7-0 Vote)

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Cooksey introduced an item of discussion about the bond counsel. He said he wants to spread the bond business around and assign a different law firm to GO bonds, another to revenue bonds and still another to special project bonds.

Mayor Cooksey also introduced an item to Council concerning Civic Center RFP requirements.

Motion

The Council, on Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's motion, Councilmember Humphrey's second, adopted a resolution clarifying Civic Center RFP requirements for Minority and Women Owned Businesses. (5-0 Vote, Councilmembers Shipman and Urdy out of the room)

APPEAL SET

The Council, on Councilmember Carl-Mitchell's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Trevino's second, set an appeal hearing for April 2, 1987 at 5:00 p.m. on the request of Mr. Chip Harris, president of Crestview Neighborhood Association on an appeal of the Planning Commission's decision regarding a site plan approval at 5301 North Lamar. (Related to an earlier appeal by Mr. Harris as to the compatibility waiver for this project) No. RZ-86-063. (6-0 Vote, Councilmember Urdy out of the room)

ITEM POSTPONED

Postponed was consideration of a resolution instructing the City Manager to design and implement an interim water action plan and hire the necessary project managers.

Attachment C: Application for Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center

REC ED

MAY - 8 1997

May 8, 1997

Mr. Jesus Olivares, Director
Mr. Kendall Moss, Deputy Director
Parks and Recreation Department
City of Austin – Hand Deliver

Re: Request for expedited processing of Facility Naming Applications for Barton Springs Education Center and The Hillside Theatre at Zilker Park

Gentlemen:

Attached to this cover letter are two (2) "Applications for Facility Naming."

Both applications request facilities be named after Beverly S. Sheffield.

I respectfully request your immediate attention to these applications in order that they may be considered by the City of Austin Parks Board at its May 13th meeting, so that City Council may consider the application to name The Hillside Theatre at its May 22nd meeting. (Council Members Griffith and Garcia have agreed to sponsor this item.)

I apologize for the late filing of these applications. The goal is to get both approved prior to the donor reception and naming ceremony May 30, 1997.

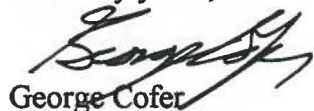
A full bio/resume of Mr. Sheffield's lifetime of public service and volunteer activities will be delivered to your offices Monday, May 12th.

There is widespread community support for these two applications. I urge you to make a positive recommendation and to allow both to be posted as addenda to the Parks Board's May 13th agenda.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

On behalf of the fundraising committee for the Barton Springs Education Center,

Sincerely yours,



George Cofer

- 7 -

APPLICATION FOR FACILITY NAMING

GEORGE COFER ON BEHALF OF BARTON SPRINGS
EDUCATION CENTER FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

I/We THE HILLSIDE THEATRE request that the name of
Person BEVERLY S. SHEFFIELD be considered for the

THE HILLSIDE THEATRE facility located at
ZILKER PARK

Biographical Synopsis: 1996-1973: AQUATICS - PRAD DIRECTOR.
HELPED CREATE LOCAL AUDUBON CHAPTER.
AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - FOUNDER.

NOTE: A COMPLETE BIO AND RESUME WILL BE
AVAILABLE MONDAY, MAY 12TH.

Justification: HIS LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE
AND VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP NEEDS
AND DESERVES TO BE RECOGNIZED.

Estimated cost for replacement of signs and plaques \$500.00
I/We will pay full cost FULL COST or will participate % in the
cost.

Submitted to the Public Works Department this 8TH day of MAY,
19 97.


Signature

- VITA -

NAME: Beverly S. Sheffield
 BIRTH DATE: March 7, 1913
 BIRTH PLACE: Alamo Heights, San Antonio, Texas

CHURCH: St. David's Episcopal - Vestry 1951-53; 1959-61
 - Layreader & Chalice Bearer 1954-present

EDUCATION:

1931 Completed Alamo Heights High School
 1931-32 St. Mary's University of San Antonio
 1932-35 The University of Texas - BS in Physical Ed.
 1936-48 The University of Texas - Masters of Ed.
 Jan. 1938 New York University - Recreation Administration

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

1937 Counselor - San Antonio Y.M.C.A. Camp
 1930 Aquatic Director - San Antonio Y.M.C.A. Camp
 1931 Activities Director - San Antonio Y.M.C.A. Camp
 1932 & 33 Counselor - Byers Peak Ranch for Boys - Colorado
 1934 Playground Leader - Lifeguard - Activity Leader
 Austin Recreation Department
 1935-40 Aquatic Director - Supervisor and Assistant Director
 of Recreation, City of Austin
 1941-42 Acting Director of Recreation
 1943-45 Welfare & Recreation Officer - U.S.N.R.
 1946-62 Director of Recreation, City of Austin
 1963-73 Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Austin
 1974-76 Director of the Office for the American Bicentennial Celebration
 1977-78 Director of Trusts & Endowments for City of Austin
 1978-87 Executive Director, Austin Community Foundation

1946 (Summer) Assistant Professor - University of Texas
 1951 " " " " " "
 1961 (Fall) " " " " "
 1952 (Fall) " " " " "

1953-56 Instructor for correspondence course in "Municipal Recreation
 Administration", International City Manager's Association

1952 Prepared a master plan for the Recreation Department entitled
 "PLANNING AHEAD FOR RECREATION IN AUSTIN". The plan included a
 study of the Parks & Recreation system and showed comparisons
 national standards and other cities.

- 1853 Recreation Planner & Consultant for the City of Odessa & Ector County, Texas. A 64 page printed report was issued on the Park & Recreation system.
- 1954 Prepared a master plan for a 68 acre park in San Marcos, Texas and served as a consultant to the Parks Board in the development of the plan.
- 1949 Prepared a 97 page report on a study of "The Community Use of Ship Playground".

Served as consultant and guest speaker on the subject of parks and recreation to numerous towns and cities in central Texas.

PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

American Recreation Society: (Merged with the National Recreation Association, the Institute of Park Executives and other professional recreation groups to form the National Recreation & Park Association in 1966.)

Southwestern Geographical Representative	1951-
Member of Personnel Practices Committee	1953-
Chairman of Study & Research Committee	1954-
Chairman of Nominating Committee	1955-
Member of Membership Committee	1956-
Chairman of the History Committee	1957-
Treasurer	1960-
Member-at-Large - Executive Committee	1961-
Secretary	1962-
2nd Vice President	1963-

National Recreation Association: (merged into NRPA 1966)

Member of Advisory Committee on Recruitment, Training and Placement of Personnel	1957-
Member of Advisory Committee on Defense Related Services	
Member of Advisory Committee on Recreation Research	
Member of Committee on International Recreation Services	
Chairman National Advisory Committee on Recreation Administration	1959-
Chairman National Advisory Council	1962-

Southern Regional Education Board:

Member of the Study Committee on Recreation Leadership and Training needs in the Southern Region	1953-
--	-------

PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

Texas Amateur Athletic Federation:

Member of the Executive Committee

Chairman of the State Swimming Meet

1937-38-

Texas Beach & Pool Association:

Vice President

1939

President

1940

American Institute of Park Executives: (merged into NRPA - 1966

Member

1958-

Texas Recreation & Park Society:

Treasurer

1940-

President

1949-

Editor - "Texas Recreation News"

1954-

Chairman of the Legislative Committee

1961-

Chairman of the Certification Committee

1957-

Chairman of the Citation & Awards Committee

1963-

Member Legislative Committee

1977-

National Recreation & Park Association:

National Registration Committee

1966-

Board of Governors - Professional Division

1967-

(became the National Council) - Chairman

1968-

Vice Chairman - Board of Trustees

1968-

National Park & Recreation Society:

Nominating Committee

1966

Distinguished Fellow Committee

1969

Chairman Constitution & By-Laws Committee

1973

PUBLICATIONS:

"Mothers' Clubs Bridge the Season", RECREATION, Sept. 1941

Published by the National Recreation Association

"Organized Recreation Programs", TEXAS MUNICIPALITIES, Dec. 1949

PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS:

Austin Rotary Club - member

1956 - present

Junior Chamber of Commerce - past member & Board member

1942

Austin Chamber of Commerce - past member

Austin Heritage Society - founding member

1953 - present

Austin Symphony Society - member Board of Directors

1946-7

Y.M.C.A. - past member of Board of Directors

Austin Area Garden Council - member of Board of Directors

1955-7

and a founding member

PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: (continued)

Travis County Chapter American Red Cross - Board of Directors and 12 years service as Chairman of Water Safety	1966-7
Austin United Fund - past member Board of Trustees	
Travis Audubon Society - founding member & member of Board	1954-7
Austin U.S.O. - member of Board	1952-6
- President	1967-6
Natural Science Association - founding member and member Board of Directors	1960-7
Austin Ballet Society - member Board of Directors	1962-6
Austin Aqua Festival - founding member and Secretary	1962-7
Austin Community Council - founding member and member Board of Directors	past
Montopolis Community Center - member Board of Directors	1965-7
Laguna Gloria Art Museum - member Board of Directors	1965-7
Austin Arts Council - founding member and Board member	1968-7
Austin Boys Club - member Board of Directors	1968-7
Austin Community Foundation -incorporator, founder and Governor Emeritus	1977 - presen

SPECIAL HONORS & RECOGNITIONS:

Meritorious Service Award - American National Red Cross	1954
Recipient of the Fellow Award - Texas Recreation Society	1957
Recipient of the Fellow Award - American Recreation Society	1961
Recognition Award - USO Board of Governors	1961
Recipient of Distinguished Service Award - American Institute of Park Executive	1965
National award for excellence in Parks & Recreation Management - National Sport Foundation	1969
Community Service Award - Austin Rotary Club	1970
Recipient of the Merit Award - American Park & Recreation Soc.	1971
Recognition Award - Austin Aquatic Club	1971
Appreciation Award - Zachary Scott Theater	1973
Appreciation Award - Travis County Historical Survey Committee	1976
Recognition Award - Texas American Revolution Bicentennial Commission	1976
Appreciation Award - American Freedom Train	1976
Appreciation Award - NAACP	
Austin's Most Worthy Citizen Award	1978
Appreciation Award - The Heritage Society of Austin	1980
Outstanding Citizen Award - The Counseling & Pastoral Care Center of Austin	1988
Distinguished Service Award - City Council, Austin	1988
Appreciation Award - Austin 150 Commission	1989
Recipient Dr.W.H."Deacon"Crain Award - Friends of the Summer Musical	1994

COMMENTS ON BARTON SPRINGS

by Beverly S. Sheffield

February 21, 1993

Barton Springs is like heaven, more a state than a place. That's how many, many devotees of this beautiful water hole feel about it. When one is walking toward the pool and passes a swimmer leaving they often smile at one another and one says, "How's the water today?", and the answer is, "God, it's wonderful!" This sort of interaction just doesn't happen at any other pool.

I made my first swim in Bartons in 1923, when I was 10 years old. In 1934 I began my career in the City Recreation Department as playground leader and lifeguard. I became the first Director of Aquatics in 1935. In those days special events at the Springs included Water Pageants, Bathing Beauty Contests, Swimming exhibitions, Swim apparel style shows, and the annual Forth of July fire works exhibition sponsored by the American Legion and later the Jaycees. Swimming and Red Cross Life Saving classes were taught there too.

In 1940 the Director of Recreation, Jim Garrison, took a leave of absence and I became acting Director. He told me that Barton Springs was a special place and that I had to be sure to take care of it. Frankly, at that time I did not know what he meant. And I did not really get a feel for Bartons until I became a serious swimmer at the Springs and met the many devotees of that beautiful water.... it was like heaven.

Many people don't realize that recreation is important for a full life. There are four things that a person lives by: their work, their love (family), their worship and their play. And the way one plays, their choices of leisure activities are essential for a full and happy life. The euphoria that come from physical recreation, like a mile swim in Bartons, makes one feel good about himself. It gives one a sense of well being.

I didn't really discover my own need for physical recreation until Charlie Morrison's 85th birthday party at the pool. I swam with his party givers to the dam and back and was exhausted. This prompted me to become a serious swimmer. I was 50 years old and decided that now was the time to start taking care of my own body.

I started logging my swims. It took me 80 days to swim the first 50 miles. Then when I completed 200 miles I thought, "My, I've swum all the way to Dallas". Then one day I completed swimming the distance from New York to Los Angeles, 2820 miles in 1714 swim days. Now I'm out in the Pacific heading for Hawaii.

I am always fascinated by the number of people who drive out to Bartons just to take a few minutes to look at the springs. This happens over and over again, regardless of the weather. There is a magic attraction to the water that the general public love and appreciate. Yes, even non swimmers.

My family has been told that when I die to cremate my body and sprinkle some of the ashes in Bartons. Yes, Bartons is like heaven.

As Director of the Park and Recreation the first time that I realized the need to protect Barton Springs was in the middle fifties. A large number of homes were built along Bluebonnet Lane and in the area that drained into what we call "Rabb Creek" which empties into the middle of the swimming pool. The trash and liter that was flushed down this drainage way was awful. Sometimes we would find small dead animals in the pool. And it happen each time a small rain shower hit that section of the city. One year we closed the pool about 30 times due to the dirty water that flooded into the pool from Rabb creek. The city finally built a by-pass to carry this runoff below the lower dam of the pool.

Developers began negotiating for the Rabb Tract in the early fifties. This land encompasses much of the Barton Hills subdivision. The late Walter Seaholm, City Manager, told me to lay out a golf course for that land. We gave the City Council the plan and they did not see fit to purchase the land. We did buy the creek bottom up to Campbells hole.

About this same time, the late Robert Mueller, former locker boy at Bartons and later cashier, offered to sell a strip of land, about 40-50 acres, lying on the South side of the creek from the pool to Campbell hole. Again the City Council did not come up with the funds to gain control of this valuable piece of land.

In the middle sixties Austin's first environmental group organized under the leadership of Mrs. Charles "Bobby" Crenshaw and Russell Fish. They brought their concerns about Barton Creek to me and our Park planners, headed by Don Stence, drew up a plan for a green belt up Barton Creek. Nothing substantial came from this effort except it began to create some citizen interest in extending Zilker Park up Barton Creek.

Our staff decided that the Park and Recreation Department should investigate the possibility of creating a soil erosion project on Barton Creek. This is a program of the U.S. Agriculture Department that develops small flood control dams on a creek to check run off. Private land owners must give permission for their land to be flooded and if they wanted a permanent body of water they would have to supply the funds for a higher dam.

We held two meetings with representatives from the City, State and Federal officials and land owners to discuss the merits of the flood control dams. The talks broke down because I could not get the City Manager, the late W.T. Williams to support the idea. For the project to be created it was necessary to have it sponsored by a political entity.

It was always my thought that the development immediately above the Springs was bad only because of sight pollution. We could build a by-pass around the pool for the runoff water. What we really needed to do was spend every dollar that we could get for land above the first sink hole that recharges the aquifer. I remember how disappointed I was when the \$750,000 paid by the AISD to the City for the part of Zilker Park that was used for the new Stephen F. Austin High School, was not used to extend Zilker Park up Barton Creek. When I wanted to budget all of these funds for land purchase up Barton Creek the City Manager's office told me we had to use the money for a new golf course, a new district park, a new swimming pool etc.

At the time when I saw several ideas for creating a Barton Creek greenbelt go unheeded there was no Barton Creek posse and for many years we not even had a Parks and Recreation Board. There was no one for me to talk too.

Attachment D: Statesman article



Interactive center will focus on aquifer, Barton - Austin American-Statesman (TX) - June 16, 1997 - page B1

June 16, 1997 | Austin American-Statesman (TX) | Kelli Walker; AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN | Page B1

Barton Springs is a little slice of heaven on Earth.

That's what Beverly S. **Sheffield**, 84, tells anyone who will listen to him half a second.

"It does something for your heart and your soul," **Sheffield** said. "It's like I say: Barton Springs is like heaven, more a state than a place."

The Old Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool last month was renamed the Beverly S. **Sheffield Education Center**. The center will open in October, featuring an Austin Nature Center exhibit called "Splash into the Edwards Aquifer." The exhibit will be interactive and educational, with a focus on the aquifer and Barton Springs.

Sheffield, a longtime parks director who dreamed up the Zilker Christmas Tree, sees the new exhibit as a chance to show everyone how special Central Texas is to have such an aquifer.

"I think it's amazing what they're going to do," **Sheffield** said. "It will be, like they say, state of the art."

Sheffield, a San Antonio native, moved to Austin in 1932 and hasn't moved since. Austin, he says, has a unique hold on people.

And as the city continues to attract more and more people, **Sheffield** says he fears for the future of the springs. **Sheffield** has seen patterns during the years that disturb him; the condition of the springs after a rain, for instance, has become worse.

"I'm very pessimistic about the future of the springs," **Sheffield** said. "I hope we can protect the quality of water."

When not away visiting friends and family, **Sheffield** can be found at least two or three times a week taking a dip in the 68-degree waters of Barton Springs. **Sheffield**, who has been married to his wife, Lois, for 57 years, says hello to other regulars, greeting his female friends at the pool with a cheek-to-cheek gesture.

His first swim was in 1923, but he did not become a devotee of the

pool until more than 30 years ago.

"When I stand there ready to plunge in, whether it's 35 degrees or 100 degrees (outside), I say, 'You're a damned fool,'" **Sheffield** said. "It's cold! But after I plunge in there, I say, 'Oh, this feels so good.'"

Cindy Giedraitis, a site supervisor with the Austin Nature and Science Center, said when she met **Sheffield** two years ago, she couldn't believe the slender, gray-haired man "with a spring in his step" was in his 80s.

"He just had this healthy vitality in his eyes and his swimmer's body," Giedraitis said. "He seemed more energetic than I."

Giedraitis said many people in the Parks and Recreation Department admire **Sheffield** and know him as a person who did much for Austin.

"He's a legend," Giedraitis said. "He was one of the longest-serving parks directors. He really had the chance to see Austin grow."

Sheffield worked for the City of Austin for more than 40 years and

was director of recreation from 1946 to 1962. It was his idea to string lights from a tower to create the Zilker Christmas Tree. When the Parks Department and the Recreation Department merged, he was named

director of the Parks and Recreation Department for 10 more years.

After retiring in 1978 from the City of Austin, **Sheffield** went back to work as a founder of Austin Community Foundation, a nonprofit corporation that receives donations and gives them to charities. He retired again in 1987.

``He's given (Austin) a lifetime of service," said Craig Biddle, a friend of eight years. ``He took a lot of pride in his job and initiated so many programs that have become integral in our community."

CITATION (TURABIAN STYLE)

Walker, Kelli. "Interactive center will focus on aquifer, Barton Springs - Barton Springs center renamed Longtime Austin parks director - Beverly Sheffield honored at pool." *Austin American-Statesman (TX)*, June 16, 1997: B1. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/0EA059071950DF42>.

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Attachment E: Renaming Survey Report

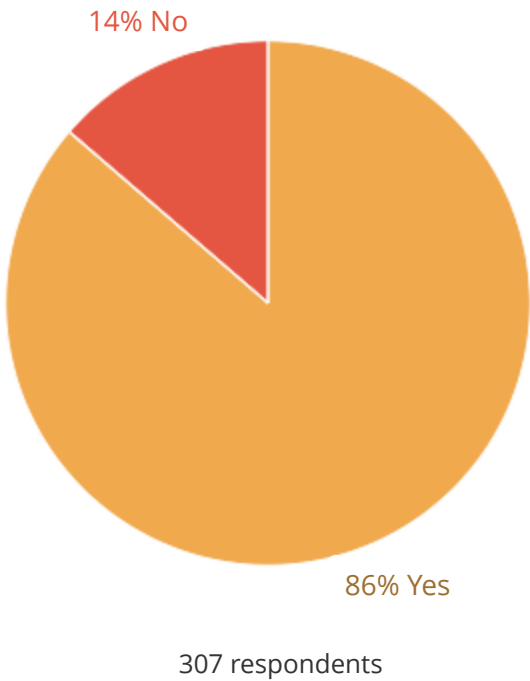
Barton Springs Bathhouse Renaming Proposal Feedback Form



Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
1,378	315	673	204

Would you like to provide your endorsement to rename the Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool to the Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool?



If you would like to endorse the renaming proposal, please enter your name here.

Joan Means Khabele was an important civic leader, and she deserves recognition. Beyond that, renaming the Bathhouse is a way to make Austin's civil rights history known to all residents. The fact that most Austin residents do not know that Barton Springs, in spite of being in the area of one of the Freedmen's Communities that was affected by the 1928 Master Plan, was closed to African Americans within the lifetimes of many people living today.

2 months ago

👍 14 Agree

I am pleased that the City considers honoring the desegregation efforts at Barton Springs, though I am pretty sure it will continue to be referred as "the Barton Springs Bathhouse". In view of that, let's make sure there is a statue of Ms. Khabele, a plaque or any other way to prominently display her background and the actions she took.

3 months ago

👍 12 Agree

Barton Springs WAS racist. Black people were not allowed to swim there. Let's honor a hero that changed that.

2 months ago

👍 11 Agree

I support this nomination. The history of segregation, racism and civil rights in Austin is not sufficiently discussed or taught. I was a student at Austin High and frequented Barton Springs with no idea about what Ms. Khabele had done to desegregate Barton Springs, herself an Austin High student. This is something every student should know and understand, they can relate to this story and we should hold up her bravery as an example.

one month ago

👍 5 Agree

I am positive that Ms. Khabele was an important and brave civic leader deserving of recognition. However in 1987 the Parks & Recreation Board recommended and the Austin City Council approved a resolution (#870319-15) that the bathhouse to be named for Mr B.J. (Buster) Robinson, a long time city employee with years of service at Barton Springs and Zilker Park. I strongly support leaving the name as the former Parks and Recreation Board and Austin City Council approved.

one month ago

👍 5 Agree

I support the renaming of Barton Springs bathhouse. Joan Means Khabele was an impressive woman who holds a rather significant moment in the history of Barton Springs Pool. It would be honorable to hold a space for her and her legacy. Her transformative action at the Barton Springs Pool all came from a moment's decision that one could possibly argue impacted the direction of the rest of her life's work and achievements. God Bless those whose moment of courage sparked important events that contribute to our history and development as a society. May we honor them and never forget.

2 months ago

👍 4 Agree

I think it's an important ameliorative gesture that will signal to diverse audiences what our values are here and what heroes we elevate as role models. This is an important opportunity. I hope the bathhouse design is equal to the honor of being named for Joan.

2 months ago

👍 4 Agree

Tanya Payne

2 months ago

👍 4 Agree

I support this nomination. The history of segregation, racism and civil rights in Austin is not sufficiently discussed or taught. I was a student at Austin High and frequente

one month ago

👍 3 Agree

I support renaming of Barton Springs bathhouse

2 months ago

👍 3 Agree

Kyra Kerr-Fitzgerald

2 months ago

👍 3 Agree

Leave Austin Alone

2 months ago

👍 3 Agree

Diana Prechter

2 months ago

👍 3 Agree

I am confused about the renaming of the Barton Springs Bathhouse. It is my family's understanding that the entrance to the pool including the offices/ basket room was named after our grandfather Buster John Robinson several years ago. The parks board and city council gave him that honor for his many years of service to the city of Austin and the building of Barton's Springs pool. There is a plaque is on the wall at the entrance to the pool showing that. Buster laid the stones creating the lower dam, and then spent the next 30+ years working to create the pool and park that are now the gem of Austin. While I do believe that Joan Means Khabele deserves recognition for her courageous role in Barton Springs history, I have to wonder if it is appropriate to erase the name of a man who dedicated his life to Zilker Park and Barton's to replace it with hers?

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

I wholeheartedly endorse the renaming of Barton Springs Bathhouse in honor of Joan Means Khabele, a distinguished leader in our city who herself defied exclusionary policies like the ones which closed Barton Springs to Black Austinites. This necessary change not only acknowledges the historical injustice of segregation but also pays tribute to a trailblazer who tirelessly advocated for equality, making Austin a more inclusive and equitable community for all.

one month ago

👍 2 Agree

It's a step in the right direction. Barton Springs still has predominantly white visitors. Let's change that.

2 months ago

👍 2 Agree

Barton Springs is a landmark and old Austin tradition. I never thought it was racist, just an iconic Austin place to go swimming. Is renaming Austin next?

2 months ago

👍 2 Agree

Elisabetta Diorio

2 months ago

👍 2 Agree

Maria Saravia

2 months ago

👍 2 Agree

Kelly Wright

24 days ago

👍 1 Agree

alerio flores

27 days ago

👍 1 Agree

I fully support this name change as a Barton springs guard, people need to remember history and from what I've read, Ms. Khabele is more than deserving of this nomination.

27 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Honoring the person who helped de-segregate Barton Springs by naming the bathhouse after her is important because we need to voice our support for anti-racist policies. By naming the bathhouse for an Black Activist we are supporting our Black community.

28 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Joan Means Khabele is a gine example of commemorations, please cut through the red tape necessary to implement this positive change, something that should not financially encumber the city and should be fairly easy to implement.

28 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Dr. Jaime Kowlessar

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Kim Simpson

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Julia Hoke

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Sounds like a decent bit of payback for all the trouble she had to endure.

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

Myka Hancevic, I support the renaming to remember and honor Joan Means Khabele

one month ago

👍 1 Agree

I support renaming the Barton Springs Pool. Joan Means Khabele was a courageous person to start the effort to desegregate the pool. And ultimately Austin.

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

I support the renaming proposal to honor the effort to desegregate Barton Springs Pool. An important milestone in desegregating Austin.

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Joan Means was an incredible person, and I support this good work to rename the bathhouse in her honor.

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Let's remember Joan Means Khabele who was a hero of enlightenment and civil society in Austin

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Avery Alexander

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Amy Pancake

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Joan Means Khabele

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Priscilla Ebersole

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Fran Clark

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

garret nick

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Clinton Dawson

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Elaine Tang

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Linda Fields

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Cara Bertron

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Sean Moothart

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Amy Salmeron

2 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Lindsey Derrington

3 months ago

👍 1 Agree

Madeleine Bate

23 days ago

I support this proposal. Please Austin City Council, vote yes!

23 days ago

Marissa Griffin

23 days ago

The bathhouse is not named for anyone right now. Naming it for Joan Means Khabele would be a great honor for the City of Austin. She earned this recognition! She set in motion the effort to end segregationist policies at the pool that were enforced by Austin Parks and Recreation. She showed great courage when she jumped into the pool after being told she could not swim there because of her race. She got kicked out and came back over and over. There are two rooms used in the past as basket rooms and the old office inside the bathhouse that are named for Buster Robinson. Naming the Bathhouse for Joan Means Khabele will not change the name of the rooms named for Mr Robinson. In fact, naming the bathhouse for her and keeping the three rooms inside named for Mr Robinson will symbolize the great change that Joan brought about at the pool. Mr Robinson served from 1928-1961. Segregation ended at the pool in 1962, the year after Mr Robinson retired, because of the swim-ins Joan started organizing in 1960. It is time for her name to adorn the bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool!

26 days ago

I would like to endorse this proposal to name the bathhouse for an Austin heroine, Joan Means Khabele. She saw injustice and she changed it. And she was only 18 at the time.

26 days ago

I didn't know about Joan or her work until now. But her work is an important piece of Austin (and Texan) history that we should all know about and celebrate.

26 days ago

Jamie Bush

26 days ago

Audrey

27 days ago

Scott Cobb

27 days ago

Yes, I would like to rename the bathhouse Joan Means Khabele

27 days ago

Susan Wall

27 days ago

Matthew Wise

27 days ago

I DO ENDORSE THE KHABELE NAME FOR THE BATHHOUSE.

27 days ago

Honoring the witness of Joan Means Khabele in a public way is so important. It's part of telling the whole story of our history, both of White supremacy and courageous Black leadership. If we are seriously considering renaming the Springs, I wonder if we ought to be asking Indigenous folks in our area to name it.

28 days ago

John Elford

28 days ago

Carroll Martin

28 days ago

Mikaela Stiner

28 days ago

Mary Ellen West

28 days ago

Bravery, daring and "taking the plunge" for what's right should be rewarded! Joan Means Khabele is beyond deserving of having her name attached to the Bathhouse at Barton Springs where she succeeded in shining a spotlight on the overdue need for true community and anti-racism. Wholeheartedly endorse!

28 days ago

Bill Bingham

28 days ago

Casey Smith

28 days ago

Elizabeth Hoffman

28 days ago

Teresa Welborn

28 days ago

Jennifer Savini

28 days ago

Thomas W Downing

28 days ago

Her struggle for civil rights should be honored

28 days ago

In a time when some are trying to pretend black history is unimportant, we should honor it whenever possible.

28 days ago

Earl Kim

28 days ago

Naming the Bath House for Joan Means Khabele would be a small but admirable step in the City's public effort to dismantle our history of systemic racism.

28 days ago

David Mossman

28 days ago

Jessica Morrone

28 days ago

The zephyr bath house

28 days ago

I support this nomination.

28 days ago

Michelle zadrozny

28 days ago

Shelby M

28 days ago

Frances Morey

28 days ago

Dana Hegar

29 days ago

I fully support the name change for the bath house at Barton Springs. This woman deserves long term recognition for her courage and foresight.

29 days ago

Kristi Xing

29 days ago

Stephanie Taylor

29 days ago

Halima Foster

29 days ago

Valerie Mitchell

29 days ago

Nicole Powell

29 days ago

Virginia Palme

29 days ago

Shelley Smith

29 days ago

Camila Restrepo

29 days ago

David Tobin

29 days ago

chuck wimbrow

29 days ago

Casey Wilson

29 days ago

Michael

29 days ago

I endorse naming the bathhouse after Joan Means Khabele!

29 days ago

JAMES KIPPLE

29 days ago

Pauline Caldwell

29 days ago

Colin Perez

29 days ago

Make Austin's civil rights history known to all residents.

29 days ago

Amanda Arredondo

29 days ago

Kellyn Dassler

29 days ago

Janna Horn

29 days ago

Ruthann Panipinto

29 days ago

LaTrelle Peterson

29 days ago

Why would anyone oppose this?

29 days ago

Very important move to for real change in Austin and many other cities to have areas and buildings named after people who support all people.

29 days ago

Alyssa

29 days ago

Megan Moore

29 days ago

★★

29 days ago

Kristen Washam

29 days ago

Joy Custer

29 days ago

Such an important person deserving the honor.

29 days ago

It's the right thing to do. She was a trail blazer who made Barton Springs Equitable.

29 days ago

Tanya Payne

29 days ago

Tammy Sajak

29 days ago

Mary McLennan

29 days ago

Deena Telley

29 days ago

Joan Means Khabele is an inspiration to all Austinites and visitors!

29 days ago

Gloria Rubac

one month ago

I support the renaming of Barton Springs to Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse at Barton Springs.

one month ago

Thank you for allowing us to make comments on this issue ...as a life long swimmer of Barton Springs and of Mexican descent, I and my family were very welcome there and lived right up the hill in Barton Heights until recently....we attended Zilker Elementary, Porter Jr. High & Crockett High with the Robinson boys & led charming lives! If there is a name change, I would personally be honored if the Native American families who settled there over 10,000 years ago ... the true founders of our beautiful and beloved swimming hole!

one month ago

I drive up to Austin from San Antonio at least once a month to go to the Springs. I enthusiast support naming the bathhouse for Joan Means Khabele!

one month ago

David Edwards

one month ago

Martha Clay

one month ago

Ethan Powell

one month ago

Shannon Fitzgerald

one month ago

Sean Daniels

one month ago

CHIP BACH

one month ago

Jim Kuhn

one month ago

I love love love this idea!

one month ago

Liam Garcia

one month ago

Roxanne Evans

one month ago

Lillian VanScoy

one month ago

Leanne Arismendez

one month ago

Jessica Finnigan

one month ago

Vivian Newdick

one month ago

Joy Diaz

one month ago

Ellen

one month ago

Lee Ramsey

one month ago

Emma Alsept-Ellis

one month ago

Ben

one month ago

McKenna Jolet

one month ago

Charlie Angel

one month ago

Catherine Black

one month ago

Mindy Enriquez

one month ago

Inonge Khabele

one month ago

Edwin Bautista

one month ago

Michaela

one month ago

An excelent match.

one month ago

Thomas Josephson, endorsing Joan Means Khabele

one month ago

David Berry

one month ago

Siri Chakka

one month ago

Great idea.

one month ago

Silva Gentchev

one month ago

Caitlin Goodrich

one month ago

Ana Leifeste

2 months ago

Madeline Hawley

2 months ago

Ted Lee Eubanks

2 months ago

Gail Wormley

2 months ago

This is awesome!

2 months ago

Julie Valentine

2 months ago

Kathryn Jones

2 months ago

Iza Padilla

2 months ago

Alondra Johnson

2 months ago

2 months ago

Mir Sommerfeld

2 months ago

Liz Jones-Dilworth

2 months ago

Teri Poon

2 months ago

Cameron Neagli

2 months ago

Erin McClelland

3 months ago

Garret Nick

3 months ago

If you would like to provide additional feedback or comments about the proposal to rename the Bathhouse to the Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse, please share here.

Leave it at Barton Springs. The place and identity of the spring is stronger than the namesake family. No reasonable person associates the family with the spring. It is, independently Barton Springs to the world. Naming buildings, parks and roads after humans is absurd -- we are all flawed. Leave it alone. Stop eradicating old Austin!

2 months ago

👤 6 Agree

I have heard the story of the swim-ins firsthand from my dear friend Sandra Kirk, who also helped desegregate Barton Springs Pool. The story she has told me has made the eventful days very vivid. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

2 months ago

👤 6 Agree

I think that it's very important that on the original email sent to everyone that information about Joan Means Khabele is placed on that page as well. I also hope and ask with the strongest request I could possibly make that there be a plaque front and center. That explains exactly why the bathhouse is named after her. Just naming it after her is not enough. As hard as it may be for many in Austin to admit to, it should absolutely be acknowledged the mistakes that we made as a white community. So just naming it after her, there's not enough. Thank you for reading and listening.

3 months ago

👤 6 Agree

My name is Jeff Robinson. The bathhouse, or at least a portion of the bathhouse, is currently named after my grandfather, Buster Robinson. He worked for over 30 years creating the Barton Springs we know and love. My father, Jack Robinson, was also the supervisor of Zilker Park and subsequently, Director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Austin. He and I both grew up in the Zilker Park Supervisors cottage. The Austin Parks and Recreation office is also currently named after my father. I recognize the current trend to rename things because of past wrongs, but I can think of no better name for the Barton Springs Bathhouse than the current name of Buster Robinson. Below is the text from the plaque that is currently mounted on the bathhouse wall.

Buster Robinson Center

Buster Robinson served Austin for more than 30 years in Zilker Park. His first love was Barton Springs and he was devoted to the quality of life in Austin.

Years of Service

1928 - 1961

one month ago

5 Agree

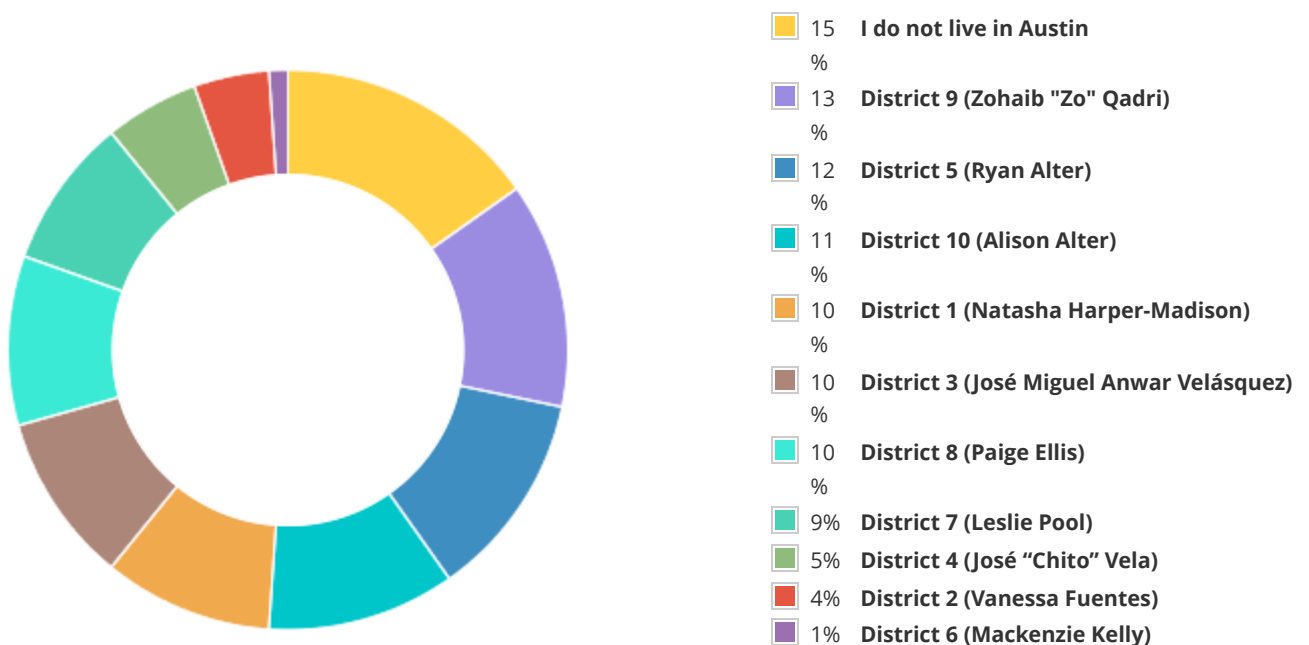
Barton Springs should be renamed. William Barton only lived on the land surrounding the springs for 3 years and "was known as a fearless and skillful Indian fighter." He owned slaves as well.

Doesn't seem like Barton contributed much good to the community. If he did contribute some good to the community, maybe there'd be an argument to keep the name. Andrew Zilker, for instance, apparently held confederate generals in high regard but he also realized the importance of public education and realized the natural beauty of the area belongs to the public so donated it to the city. He wasn't perfect but at least he contributed some good to the community. Barton, on the other hand, didn't do much except take land from indigenous peoples, kill them, and then sell the land a few years later

2 months ago

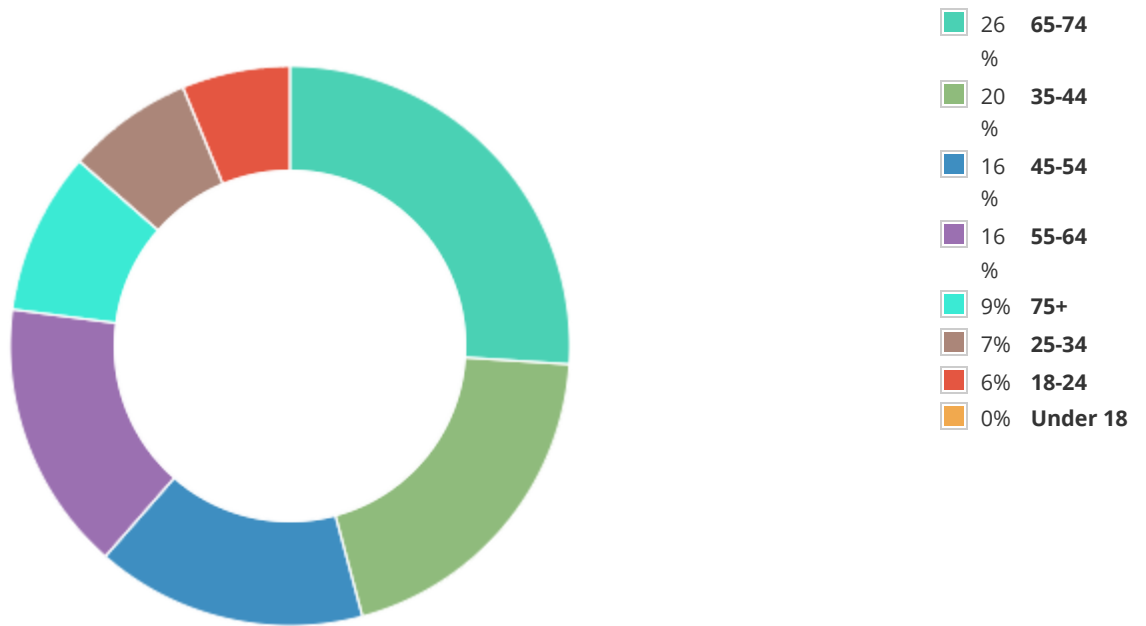
5 Agree

What City Council District do you live in?



92 respondents

What is your age range?



96 respondents

What is your race/ethnicity?

68%	White	56 ✓
21%	Hispanic or Latinx	17 ✓
9%	Black or African-American	7 ✓
4%	American Indian or Alaska Native	3 ✓
4%	Race or ethnicity not listed. I identify as:	3 ✓
1%	Asian or Asian American	1 ✓
0%	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0 ✓

82 Respondents

What language is spoken at home?

92%	English	78 ✓
8%	Spanish	7 ✓
4%	Prefer not to say	3 ✓
2%	Other	2 ✓
1%	Korean	1 ✓
0%	Arabic	0 ✓
0%	Chinese (Cantonese)	0 ✓
0%	Chinese (Mandarin)	0 ✓
0%	Vietnamese	0 ✓
0%	French	0 ✓

85 Respondents