

Received 7/1/2014
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Application for Park Naming / Renaming

Please follow the instructions below when submitting an application for naming a park.

1. Complete the application by providing detailed information about the proposed park name. Please include supplemental information such as articles, letters of support and signature list with the application.
2. City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department must receive the application within the 90 day solicitation period in order for the application to be considered.
3. Send all inquiries to: Gregory Montes, 919 W. 28 ½ Street, Austin, TX 78705. For questions, please contact, Gregory Montes at 512-974-9458 or at gregory.montes@austintexas.gov

Proposed Name for the Park (Facility): Arnulfo Alonso Zilker Park Clubhouse

If proposing the name of an individual, include a biographical description of nominee:

Born in Mexico City July 18, 1933 to Sebastian Alonso from Spain and Maria Antonia Alonso from Mexico. Both of his parents were military nurses. When he was 13 years old his mother died which caused him to run away from the boarding school where he had lived. Coming to the United States by way of the Yucatan he arrived in San Antonio and even worked in places as far away as Chicago and New York. By age 17 he settled in Austin where he met his wife Catherine. It was at that point that he sought his US citizenship by serving 2 years in the Mexican Army where he earned the rank of Sergeant. Arnulfo and Catherine (deceased) have 4 daughters (Laura, Mary, Yolanda, and Michelle who live in the Austin area) and 1 son, Arnulfo, who served in the US Army and died in a jeep accident.

Arnulfo Alonso Sr. died in Austin, Texas on August 25, 1999 at the age of 66.

Describe the individual's involvement in the Austin community:

married at Cristo Rey Catholic Church

attended mass with family at San Jose Catholic Church

Describe the individual's connection to the park or park system, if any:

Arnulfo Alonso was the longest serving Zilker Park employee (40 years) having been hired by Park Manager Buster Robinson in 1959 and faithfully working there until his death in 1999. (the Barton Springs Bathhouse is named for Buster Robinson, the second longest Zilker employee, for his 35 years of service) Mr. Alonso's skills were incomparable whether the project at hand needed a carpenter, plumber, electrician, welder, mason, irrigator, or mechanic. He could do it all. In addition to cleaning Barton Springs Pool weekly, repairing park infrastructure, and building such Austin landmarks as the Oriental Garden he was the caretaker for 40 years of the Zilker Clubhouse overlooking the city. He cleaned that popular rental space, opened and closed the building for reservations, and was required to live on site in order to assure quick customer response. His gift to the City and to its park, pool, clubhouse, and special event patrons was himself – totally, capably, and gladly. Without him, Zilker Park would not be the park she is.

If proposing a name that is not an individual, summarize the reason for the name:

_____ n/a _____

Date: July 1, 2014

Name of requester(s): Sarah Macias
Jim Rodgers

Address: Sarah - 7303 Grass Cove Austin, Texas 78759 *macias.sarah@att.net*
Jim – 4905 White Elm Dr. Austin, Texas 78749 *jim@austinlineusic.com*

Phone Number: Sarah - 512-257-2061 (home) 512-567-2060 (cell)
Jim – 512-892-1231 (home) 512- (cell)

Please provide any additional information with the application, e.g., newspaper articles, letter of recommendations, etc.

An excerpt from interview with Jack Robinson at Austin History Center on December 10, 2011

When asked about Arnulfo Alonso, Jack said:

“He was hired by my father and was a fine man. It makes you realize that many of the people that come across the water are very talented people.

I swear if Alonso had had the opportunity to go to engineering school he would have been one of the best engineers we would have had in the country. He was that way. He could do anything – absolutely.

He built that little office at the corner of the Bathhouse that nobody likes now. That was the first year I was Director there and I had him build that.

But he could do anything – masonry work, carpentry work, repair tractors. You name it, he could do it.”

June 26, 2014

Sara Hensley
PARD Director
200 South Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Tx. 78704

Dear Ms. Hensley,

A concerted effort has been inspired by a number of citizens including family, friends, dignitaries, park professionals and interested Austinites to rename two Austin Parks and Recreation (PARD) Facilities. There is unwavering support to rename the PARD Administration Office for Mr. Jack W. Robinson, past Director of the Austin PARD and rename the Zilker Clubhouse for Arnulfo Alonso, a forty year dedicated employee at Zilker Park.

As former Director of the Austin PARD, it is indeed my privilege and honor to lend my sincere support to this renaming effort. I have on many public occasions referred to the Austin Parks and Recreation Department as "The House that Jack Built" which simply speaks to the impact that Jack had on PARD. Jack was very instrumental in creating a "culture" that epitomized the "pursuit of excellence" as the roadmap to become one of the best Parks Departments in the Country. His legacy of excellence remains to this day as the cornerstone of the Austin Parks Department. Jack's culture of excellence guided me professionally during my career with PARD that led the Department to a Gold Medal Award as the Best Park system in the Nation as well as a Nationally Accredited Parks and Recreation Department. It was always comforting to know that I could turn to Jack for his advice and wise counsel regarding PARD related matters. Jack's counsel was always well received and more importantly always on target.

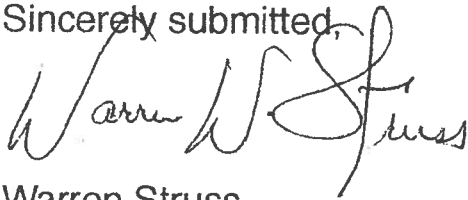
During Jack's career at PARD, he became well acquainted with a young man, Arnulfo Alonso who was hired in 1959 at Zilker Park. Alonso as he was affectionately known was hired with one of his primary duties as caretaker of the Zilker Clubhouse. He was responsible for the safe

operation and maintenance of the Clubhouse. Furthermore, due to Alonso's job skills and commitment, he soon became the "Right-Hand Man" to all future Zilker Park Managers including Jack. Alonso served with distinction for 40 years from 1959 until his death in 1999.

Arnulfo Alonso's four decades of hard work and dedication will be evident to many generations of Austinites to come as they visit Zilker Park, the crown jewel of the Austin Park system.

In closing, the character of an individual is weighed in large part by the impact they have on others that they serve. I was most fortunate to be associated with both of these Park professionals. Their impact on the City of Austin and its citizens will be forever remembered.

Sincerely submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren W. Struss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" at the beginning.

Warren Struss

Former Austin Parks and Recreation Department Director, (Retired)

June 29, 2014

Sara Hensley, Director
COA Parks and Recreation Department
200 South Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78704

re: Recommendation to rename the Zilker Park Clubhouse the "Amulfo Alonso Zilker Park Clubhouse"

Dear Sara,

As you probably know, I am a strong advocate and supporter of the Zilker Botanical Gardens, and more specifically, the Isamu Taniguchi Oriental Garden, understanding what a great asset these places are for the citizens of Austin, and its visitors. These special places, along with all of the other parks, have served millions of people, but few understand the effort it takes to maintain them. And of those at PARD who maintain them, a few exhibit a devotion to their job that is way above their pay level. Amulfo Alonso was one of those.

I know that Mr. Alonso was the caretaker of the Zilker Park Clubhouse back before my Grandfather (Isamu) began work on the Oriental Garden, and that he soon joined Grandpa in its creation. And I know that Grandpa relied on Mr. Alonso, always seeking him out when he needed help. The respect they had for each other was reflected in their long friendship.

The Taniguchi family has been honored that the City named the Garden after Grandpa.I hope the same for the Alonso family. Since Austin is such a great diverse and progressive place, I believe it's prudent that a devoted employee such as Mr. Alonso, with decades of dedication to Zilker Park, be similarly honored, by renaming the Clubhouse the "Amulfo Alonso Zilker Park Clubhouse".

Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Evan K. Taniguchi, AIA
Principal

cc: Sarah Macias
Jim Rodgers

SEED MACKALL LLP
COUNSELLORS AT LAW

1332 ANACAPA STREET, SUITE 200
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93101
POST OFFICE BOX 2578
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93120

PETER A. UMOFF

TELEPHONE: (805) 963-0669
FACSIMILE: (805) 962-1404

HARRIS W. SEED, RETIRED

June 12, 2014

Sarah Macias
7303 Grass Cove
Austin, TX 78759

Re: Arnulfo Alonso Zilker Park Clubhouse

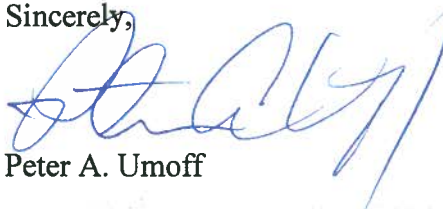
Dear Ms. Macias:

It is my understanding that there is an effort afoot, of which you are a part, to have the Zilker Park Clubhouse renamed for Arnulfo Alonso. I am writing to tell you that I think that is a great idea.

I realize that I am no longer an Austin resident, but I am nonetheless an Austin-o-phile. I obtained my undergraduate and law degrees at UT and lived in Austin from 1972 through 1979, in addition to being a frequent visitor ever since. I worked for the Austin Parks and Recreation Department for several years, and was a lifeguard and cashier at Barton Springs for a good part of that time back in what I consider the "golden years" of Barton Springs (starting in 1972). Alonso (as we knew him then) was an amazingly talented, caring, and dedicated man who, along with Jack Robinson and Jim Rogers, unstintingly poured love and devotion into Zilker Park and Barton Springs for many years. Many of us who worked at Barton Springs loved it, but no one was as devoted to it as Alonso.

I think it would be a fitting tribute to him and would do great honor to the City of Austin and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department to name the Zilker Park Clubhouse after Alonso.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Umoff

PAU/bp

June 25, 2014

3204 Fairfax Walk
Austin, TX 78705

Ms. Sara Hensley
Director, Parks and Recreation Dept.
200 S. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78704

Dear Ms. Hensley:

I am writing you to express my support for the dedication of a commemorative plaque in honor of the Arnulfo Alonso in the Zilker Park Clubhouse.

Mr. Alonso, as he was known to all, began working at Zilker Park in 1959 and continued working there until his death in 1999 — a period of 40 years of uninterrupted service to Austin's Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Alonso was hired by Park Manager Buster Robinson, who worked there for 35 years and for whom the Zilker Bathhouse is named.

For four decades, Mr. Alonso was caretaker of the Zilker Clubhouse, opening, closing, and cleaning that facility. However, what made him truly invaluable were his skills as an equipment operator, mechanic, welder, carpenter, plumber, and mason, and above all, his positive attitude and consistent work ethic. According to all the Park Managers under whom he worked, Mr. Alonso was their right-hand man and most trustworthy assistant.

In acknowledgement of Mr. Alonso's distinguished service to the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, and to our beloved Zilker Park in particular, I wholeheartedly support the dedication of a plaque in honor of Arnulfo Alonso in the Zilker Park Clubhouse.

Sincerely,



Linda H. Guerrero

June 19, 2014

Ms. Sara Hensley, Director

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

200 South Lamar Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78704

Dear Ms. Hensley,

I am writing in support of the application to name the Zilker Clubhouse for Mr. Arnulfo Alonso. During the time I worked at the City of Austin in the Parks and Recreation Department, I had the privilege to work with Mr. Alonso for many years. He was the epitome of public service in every way. Mr. Alonso began caring for the Clubhouse and its many patrons when I was only 5 years old and cared for it for 40 years. He had so many talents and skills in the maintenance field that no project seemed beyond his ability but to me his most incredible skill was in making people feel welcome when visiting or using our facility. He served dignitaries and everyday visitors making each one feel as though they were the most special. He helped facilitate joyous and solemn occasions while keeping the building and grounds well maintained. With a gentle nudge he reminded patrons about noise limits and rental curfews as an ambassador of good will. His work ethic was unsurpassed. Mr. Alonso's connection to this facility and our community is undeniable. I can think of no other person who is more deserving of this high honor.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Gayle Bohls".

Donna Gayle Bohls

12803 Scissortail Drive

Manchaca, TX 78652

Sparks Consulting Services

5210 Robinsdale Lane

Austin, Texas 78723

512-657-0659

chispas@austin.rr.com

6-25-14

Sara Hensley, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department
200 South Lamar
Austin, Texas 78704

Dear Sara,

I wish to add my support and endorsement of renaming the Clubhouse in Zilker Park to the **Arnulfo Alonso Zilker Park Clubhouse**.

I had the privilege of working directly with Arnulfo and overseeing the care of the Clubhouse for 7 years of my nearly 30 year tenure with PARD.

It goes without saying how unique and wonderful the Zilker Clubhouse is. A bit of heaven nestled in the heart of Austin.

While we are blessed to have many great park facilities like the Clubhouse it takes dedicated individuals like Mr. Alonso to facilitate the total experience so we as users take away special memories.

There were countless times when I heard from users of the Clubhouse how much they enjoyed themselves and how impressed they were with Arnulfo's dedication. He was the perfect host...kind, generous and willing to go the extra mile to assure the best possible experience was had by everyone.

I believe it appropriate to associate Mr. Alonso's name with the Zilker Clubhouse...each having great qualities and in combination assured those wonderful memories.

Respectfully,



Ronald W. Sparks

June 9, 2014

Sarah Marcias
7303 Grass Cove
Austin, Texas 78759

RE: Letter of Recommendation to name the Zilker Clubhouse in the name of Arnulfo Alonzo.

Name: Charlie Kerr
3712 Steck Avenue
Austin, Texas 78759

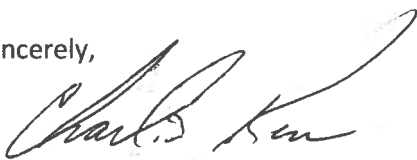
Employed by City of Austin 1972-1978 working several of those years at Barton Springs Pool as Lifeguard and Cashier.

Retired from State of Texas (1981-2011). Served as Director of Business Services and Ports of Entry/Excise Tax at time of retirement from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

I wanted to share my thought on Arnulfo Alonzo whom I worked closely with for several years. This was one of the most talented men I have ever been associated with. He had an incredible ability to design and build various infrastructures needed for Barton Springs Pool. He designed a removable fence system for upper and lower dams that allowed pool staff to easily lift and remove during severe flooding. He engineered a buoy system for protecting swimmers from the lower dam spillway's precarious current. Arnulfo worked hundreds of hours of overtime helping us clean the pool and repair damages after floods. In those days we cleaned the pool at night usually finishing up somewhere around midnight. Arnulfo would often be there driving a tractor hauling large pieces of debris for us even though he'd already put in a full day of work. His work ethic was superior from my perspective as I never saw him take a break or slow down during his shifts.

He helped some us on Saturdays work on our cars as we could not always afford to take them to a repair shop. He would show up with his own tools and generally be able to fix most problems in a short period of time. I'll always have a deep respect for his abilities and successes as limited as his educational opportunities likely were. I being in college at the time had far less usable knowledge and talents than he and was grateful that I was able to learn so much by simply watching and observing him in action. He was a wonderful human being in his abilities, generosity and work ethic. I think naming the Clubhouse in honor of him would be a great for the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Kerr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Charlie Kerr



The Exchange Club of Austin
PO BOX 684921
Austin, TX 78765

Proud Founders of the Zilker Park Kite Festival

Sara Hensley, PARD Director
200 S. Lamar Blvd.
Austin TX 78704

Dear Sara,

It has been a while since the Exchange Club of Austin has had an opportunity to visit with you. Hope this letter finds you well.

We are writing you today to ask that you please consider naming the Zilker Clubhouse for Arnulfo Alonso.

Mr. Alonso was the longest serving Zilker Park employee, serving for 40 years from 1959 until his death in 1999. He served primarily as caretaker of the Zilker Clubhouse, but we know that every Park manager considered invaluable as their "go-to" person for many roles at Zilker Park.

Iconic park events such as the Kite Festival cannot last 85 years without the untiring services of such loyal and dedicated staff. Arnulfo is just one example of the dedicated, dependable Zilker staff that has worked behind the scenes to make such wonderful civic events a reality.

The Exchange Club appreciates and treasures the 40 years of service Mr. Alonso provided by Kite Festival, the Clubhouse, and the people of Austin. Please consider this letter our sincere request to honor him and his service by naming the Clubhouse after him.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dorsey Twidwell
5 time Ex-President, The Exchange Club of Austin



7:54 PM (14 hours ago) Thu, Jun 12,
2014

Worthy LaFollette <worthyl@gmail.com>

to Pete, Jim, me, Patrick, Lori, Velanne, Bob, Brian, Brian, Bridget, Charlie, Cliff, Conrad,
Dante, David, Frank, Gary, Howard, Jim, Jim, John, John, Julie, Kim, Lee

Very nice, thank you Pete!.

As much as we all have a part of ourselves in Barton Springs and in Zilker Park, both Jack and
Alonso gave themselves wholly to the Park system. There would be no better tribute than to
make these two dedications.

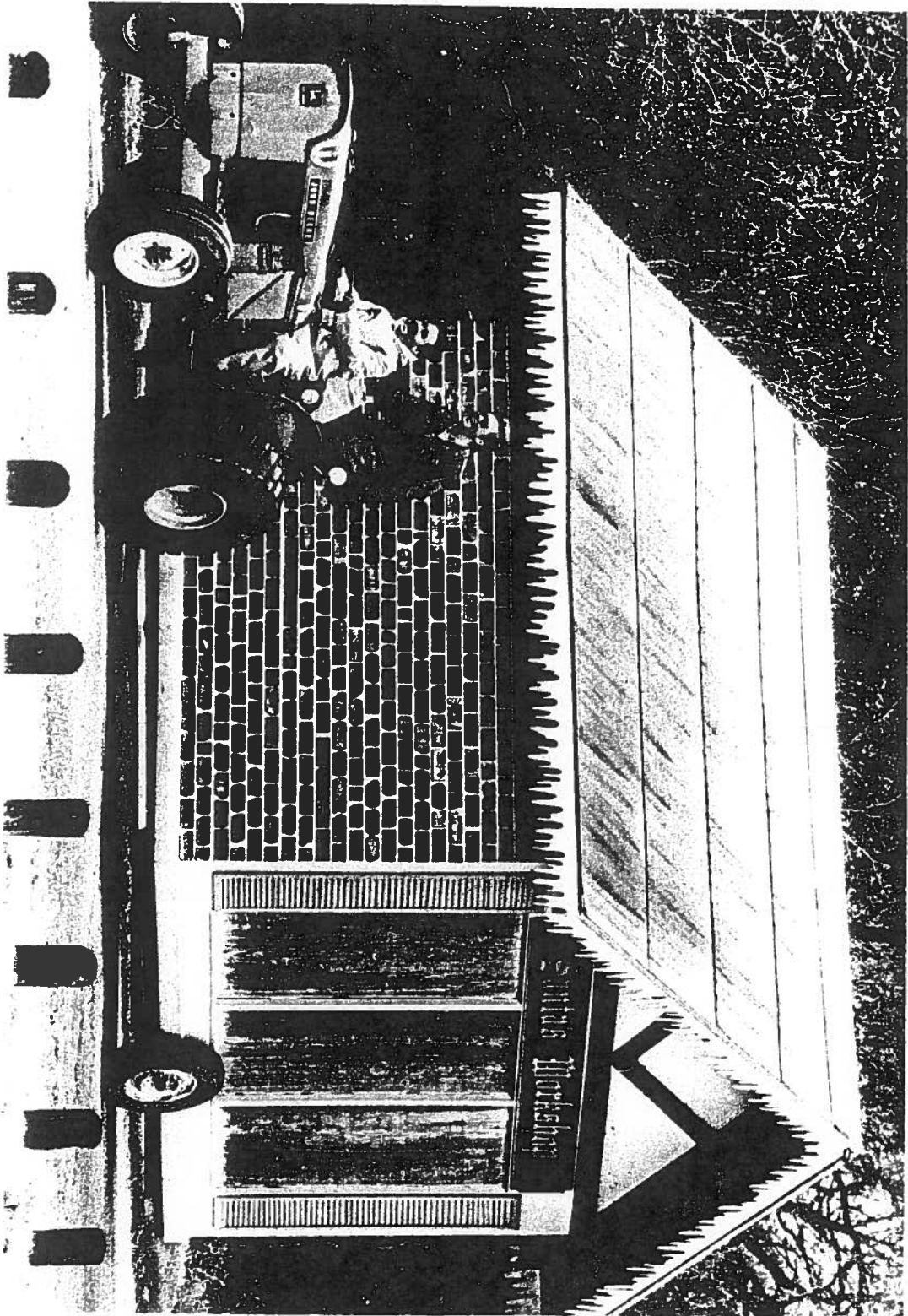
Regards,

Worthy

Austin History Center

AF - HOLIDAYS - CHRISTMAS
Yule Fest
PICA 11747

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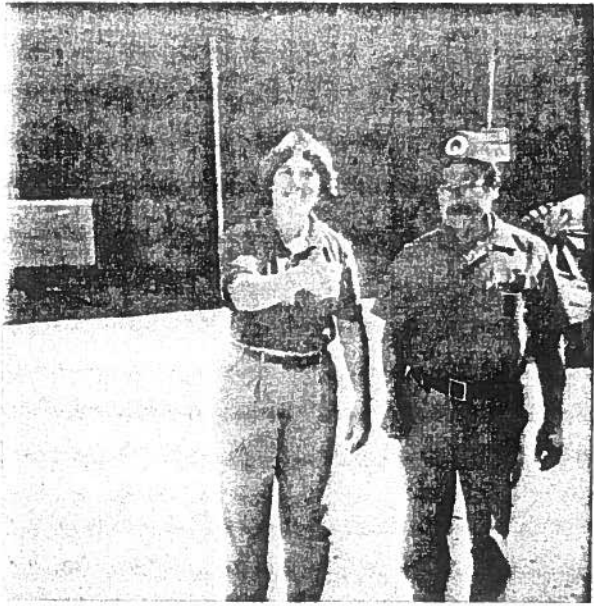


Austin History Center

AF - HOLIDAYS - CHRISTMAS
Yule Fest
PICA 23457

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