CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM

Resolution No. 2025-013 A RESOLUTION honoring Betty Robinson-Gray and Thelma Meeks for their years of dedicated service by naming the splash park and ice ribbon facility at Ewert Park, **"The Robinson-Gray & Meeks Family Splash Park & Ice Ribbon Center".**

MEETING DATE

November 17, 2025

REVIEWED BY:

Peter Edwards, City Attorney; Nick Edwards, City Manager.

SUMMARY:

This Resolution names the splash park and ice ribbon facility located in Ewert Park at 7th Street and Murphy Blvd, **"The Robinson-Gray & Meeks Family Splash Park & Ice Ribbon Center".**

BACKGROUND:

Betty Robinson-Gray and Thelma Meeks were amazing figures in the Joplin community. Both were passionate educators who dedicated their careers to shaping young minds. They continued being inspirational by working at Ewert Park in the summer months. Thelma Meeks ran concessions, community activities, and Ewert Pool from the 1930's through the 1960's and Betty Robinson-Gray, many who called her "Miss RG", ran the operations of Ewert Pool from the 1970's into the 1990's. Not only was she the General Manager, but she was also an American Red Cross Instructor who trained all the lifeguards, as well as running the swim lessons for all the children that attended Ewert Pool. These two women have left a long-lasting legacy for all those they have touched, making each person better, stronger, and happier.

Staff have collaborated closely with the East Town resident's community group through the planning and design process of the project, and they have been excellent partners. They have come together to make this request and recommendation of the City.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends this Resolution be approved.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2025-013

PCE:hn