

By: Peggy Horton
Introduced: August 5, 2024
Public Hearing: August 19, 2024
Action: Adopted

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 24-23**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING DENIAL OF THE PROPOSAL TO NAME A GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE WITHIN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AS ARKOSE PEAK, LOCATED WITHIN TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH, RANGE 2 EAST, SECTION 3, SEWARD MERIDIAN, ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Department received a request for comments from the Alaska Historical Commission regarding a proposal to make official the name Arkose Peak for an unnamed geographic feature in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Historical Commission is designated by statute as the Geographic Names Board for the State of Alaska. The commission coordinates the program to name physical features in the State with the United States Board on Geographic Names; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission is tasked with acting for the assembly in matters of naming geographic features; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, in 1969, at the request of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA), the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) approved the name Arkose Peak for a 5,804-

foot peak located in Sections 26 and 35, Township 20 North, Range 2 East; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the name Arkose Peak was proposed in 1969 due to the presence of a specific type of rock known as arkose; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the name Arkose Peak was mistakenly applied to a peak in Section 3, Township 19 North, Range 2 East, approximately 1.3 miles southeast of its intended location, due to a mapping error in the 1985 USGS topographic maps; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, this mislabeling led to the 5,325-foot peak in Section 3 becoming known locally as Arkose Peak, while the 1969 named peak is now known locally as Souvenir Peak; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the suggested change acknowledges a historical discrepancy and brings official records in line with current local usage; and

WHEREAS, according to the BGN Principles, Policies, and Procedures, the support for BGN's domestic names activities and the maintenance of names are provided by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), an agency of the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, to support the BGN, USGS maintains the Federal authoritative source of official geographic feature names, the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS); and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal and the GNIS, Arkose Peak is named for a rock formation located at the northeast end of Arkose Ridge; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal and the GNIS, the mountain summit in Section 3, for which the name Arkose Peak is proposed, is currently unnamed; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, naming the mountain Arkose Peak in Section 3 would lead to duplication if the summit's name in Sections 26 and 35 remains unchanged; and

WHEREAS, a GNIS search found that Arkose Peak is located within a mountain range named Arkose Ridge. No other instances of Arkose were found in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, according to the guidelines for name changes listed in the Alaska Historical Commission program, the commission is reluctant to change existing names but will consider doing so if the proposer demonstrates a compelling reason and if there is local support for the change; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) is tasked to advise the assembly in

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identifying, protecting, preserving, and interpreting cultural resources within the borough that are of archaeological, historical, cultural, scientific, or geographic importance; and

WHEREAS, the HPC held a public meeting on August 15, 2024; and

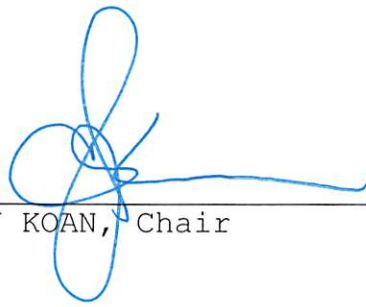
WHEREAS, the HPC adopted Resolution 24-01, recommending the subject mountain in Section 3 remain unnamed; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed this application with respect to the standards and procedures for the Borough to comment on such proposals set forth in MSB 15.04.025; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on August 19, 2024, on this matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission, acting for the Assembly, recommends denial of the proposal to name an unnamed geographic feature in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as Arkose Peak.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission on this 19TH day of August 2024.


CJ KOAN, Chair

ATTEST


LACIE OLIVIERI, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)



YES: unanimous

NO: