

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

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 24-17**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING DENIAL OF A PROPOSAL TO RENAME A GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE WITHIN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FROM ARKOSE PEAK TO SOUVENIR PEAK, LOCATED WITHIN TOWNSHIP 20 NORTH, RANGE 2 EAST, SECTIONS 26 AND 35, SEWARD MERIDIAN, ALASKA.

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WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Department received a request for comments from the Alaska Historical Commission regarding a proposal to rename a mountain peak currently named Arkose Peak to Souvenir Peak 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 (BGN); and

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

WHEREAS, the subject feature is a 5,804-foot summit at the northeast end of Arkose Ridge, straddling Sections 26 and 35,

Township 20 North, Range 2 East, within the Talkeetna Mountains;  
and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, in 1969, the BGN approved the name Arkose Peak for this feature following a proposal by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) Geographic Names Committee;  
and

WHEREAS, according to the BGN Principles, Policies, and Procedures, 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, according to the proposal, the 1985 USGS topographic map contained an error, placing the 1969 approved name, Arkose Peak, on a summit 1.3 miles southeast of its intended location in Section 3, Township 19 North, Range 2 East; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, this mislabeling led to the 5,325-foot peak in Section 3 becoming known locally as Arkose Peak and the summit straddling Sections 26 and 35 becoming known as Souvenir Peak; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the publication of the 2023 USGS maps for this area has led to public queries regarding the placement of the label for Arkose Peak and Souvenir Peak,

precipitating the current proposals aimed at resolving the uncertainty around these geographic names; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, renaming the 5,804-foot summit from Arkose Peak to Souvenir Peak will correct the official designation to reflect current local usage; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the current name Arkose Peak (proposed Souvenir Peak) and the neighboring Arkose Ridge are reported as the Ahtna name "Tsida K'ae Dghilaaye" in Shem Pete's Alaska: The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina, (Revised 2nd Edition, 2016, pg. 297) by James Kari and James A. Fall, with principal contributor Shem Pete. Here, "Tsida K'ae Dghilaaye" means "Grandmother's Place Mountain" in Ahtna; 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, to support the BGN, USGS maintains the Federal authoritative source of official geographic feature names, the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS); and

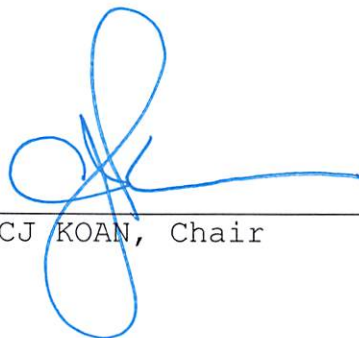
WHEREAS, testimony or comments are provided to the Planning Commission for consideration; and

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 for the renaming of Arkose Peak to Souvenir 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:

