

By: Peggy Horton  
Introduced: May 15, 2023  
Public Hearing: June 5, 2023  
Action: ADOPTED

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 23-15**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO NAME A GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE WITHIN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AS MOCHA SPIRE, LOCATED WITHIN TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST, SECTION 20, SEWARD MERIDIAN.

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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 make official the name Mocha Spire 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

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WHEREAS, The feature is an unnamed prominent rock formation with an elevation of 6,300 feet. It is located within Denali National Park & Preserve, east of Ruth Glacier, rising out of an unnamed glacier, locally known as Coffee Glacier; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the name has been used by local, American, and international climbers, the American Alpine

Journal, NPS Rangers, and commercial glacial pilots for an estimated 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the proposal included the name on photos, a slide show cover page, and written articles in mountaineering publications; and

WHEREAS, the proposal included articles published in The American Alpine Journal of 2009, 2010, and 2021 identifying the spire as Mocha Spire; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the name is descriptive since the rock formation rises out of Coffee Glacier, the local name for an unnamed glacier east of Ruth Glacier; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the name is appropriate for the subject rock feature because it is a brown color that matches the color of mocha; and

WHEREAS, in support of the United States Board on Geographic Names, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) maintains the Federal authoritative source of official geographic feature names, known as the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS); and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal and the GNIS, the rock formation is unnamed; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, no conflict is reported with the recommended name; and

WHEREAS, a search in the GNIS found no indication of the name Mocha or Mocha Spire used as a geographic feature in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission is tasked to advise the assembly in identifying, protecting, preserving, and interpreting cultural resources within the borough that are of archaeological, historical, cultural, scientific, or geographic importance; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission held a public hearing on May 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, by resolution, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission opposes the proposal to apply the name Mocha Spire on the basis that it is frivolous; and

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

WHEREAS, notification of the hearing for the proposed name and a request for comments was posted at the Talkeetna Library and Talkeetna Post Office and advertised in the Frontiersman; and

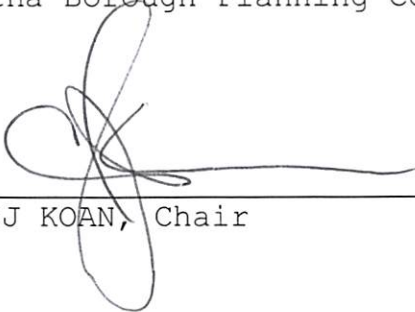
WHEREAS, there have been no public comments received as a result of the public noticing; and

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 June 5, 2023 on this matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission, acting for the Assembly, recommends approval of the proposed name of Mocha Spire for an unnamed geographic feature in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

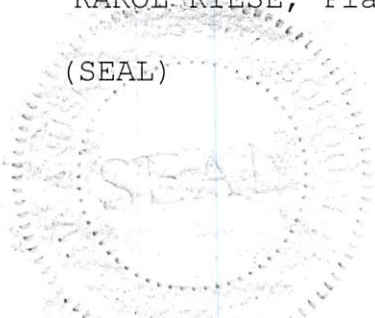
ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this 5<sup>TH</sup> day of June, 2023.

  
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CJ KOAN, Chair

ATTEST

  
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KAROL RIESE, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)



YES: *LE GLENN, ALLEN, KOAN, McCABE*

NO: *Ø*