

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

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 23-18**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED NAME OF FEATHER LAKE FOR AN UNNAMED LAKE IN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH, LOCATED WITHIN TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, SECTION 7 AND TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 4 WEST, SECTIONS 12 & 13, SEWARD MERIDIAN.

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 Coffee 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

WHEREAS, the lake is approximately 3,700 feet long and has an area of roughly 45 acres according to the proposal; and,

WHEREAS, the name is descriptive and suits the body of water's shape and abundant avian presence; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the name commemorates all [avian] species; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the name is a tribute to the local avian population that has called this area home for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, the lake is surrounded by land owned by the State of Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority or in private ownership (Knikatnu, Inc.); and

WHEREAS, the land surrounding the lake is currently undeveloped; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the name is not in local usage; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, an owner of land near the lake submitted the proposed name change to the Alaska Historical Commission; 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 lake 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 Feather Lake 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 meeting on May 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, by resolution, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission supports the proposal to apply the name Feather Lake; 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 Big Lake Library and Big Lake Post Office and advertised in the Frontiersman and on the Borough website; and

WHEREAS, the Planning staff requested comments from the borough and outside agencies, including the Big Lake Community Council via email; 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 for the proposed name of Feather Lake for an unnamed lake in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this 5th day of June, 2023.



Karol Riese

KAROL RIESE, Planning Clerk

COGNITIVE LAND FES
for

(SEAL)

CJ Koan

CJ KOAN, Chair

YES: *6 GLENN, ALLEN, KOAN, McCABE, FERNANDEZ, SCOGGIN*

NO: *Ø*