

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Historical Preservation Commission Agenda

Edna DeVries, Mayor

Andrew Schweisthal
Kevin Toothaker
Deborah Burlinski
Jake Anders
Fran Seager-Boss
Janet Kincaid
Angela Wade

Gerrit Verbeek – Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

November 17, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 p.m.

Ways to participate in the Historical Preservation Commission meetings:

TELEPHONIC TESTIMONY:

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 907-290-7880,,663363082#](#) United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: 663 363 082#

- State your name for the record, spell your last name and provide your testimony.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."
- V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VII. ELECTIONS

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)

IX. HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM UPDATES

X. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- A. Historic Preservation Plan Phase II Update
- B. Archive Organization Project Update

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Amending 8/11/22 HPC Minutes
- B. A Resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission Recognizing the Service of Deborah Burlinski
- C. Discussion of a List of Historic Themes for Inclusion in the Historic Preservation Plan
- D. Discussion of Formal Condolences for Community Members

XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE:

- A. Next Regular Meeting – February 9th, 2023

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Disabled persons needing reasonable accommodation in order to participate at a Historical Preservation Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8432 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

MSB Staff Report: Historic Preservation Plan Phase II Update

Last updated Nov. 3, 2022

- ☐ CLG Grant submitted 8/26/2022
- ☐ Expect OHA to announce grant awards in December
- ☐ Expect roughly 6 weeks for Borough to accept and allocate funds

- ☐ Themes discussion
 - Set of themes drafted by the HPC, September 2020
 - Public Comment period (Oct. 13 – Oct. 24) – 4 comments received
 1. Fran Seager-Boss (Archaeologist, HPC member)
Recommended adding Freighting under Commerce. **Added.**
 2. Sue Deyoe (Exec. Dir., Talkeetna Historical Society & Museum)
Recommended adding Glacier Aviation as a subset of Aviation. **Added.**
 3. Sue Deyoe (Exec. Dir., Talkeetna Historical Society & Museum)
Recommended adding Mountain Exploration in some form.
Changed Academic / Scientific Exploration to Non-Governmental Exploration to better capture exploration blending various motives and funding sources. Also mirrors Government Roads and Non-Government Roads
 4. Katie Ringsmuth (OHA)
Recommended adding Political History as a theme. **Added** Political History with examples including New Deal Politics, Labor Movements, and Conservatism.
 - 2 individuals requested copies for review after learning of it from their Community Council, but did not submit feedback
 - OHA Review (Oct. 31st)
 - Katie Ringsmuth, Maria Lewis
 - Positively received, OHA found the list of themes comprehensive
 - Acceptable to refer to a combination of a theme, place, and time period as a ‘context’, even without rigorous documentation

- ☐ Next steps
 - Drafting legislation for Assembly acceptance and distribution of funds
 - Drafting RFP for consultant, to be released when grant is received

MSB Staff Report: Archive Organization Project Update

Last updated Nov. 3, 2022

Initial review by Borough Attorney's Office indicates that records retention is satisfied with electronic copies of documents. We could loan or transfer these materials to a different institution once scanned.

2600+ 35mm slides scanned (6 albums + 1 envelope), but still need descriptions and to be loaded into Content Manager

Borough staff is exploring a reprint of Knik, Matanuska, Susitna: A Visual History of the Valleys (MSB, 1987)

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 22-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DEBORAH BURLINSKI.

WHEREAS, Deborah Burlinski served on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission from 2013 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, that represents three terms of service, including terms as Chair and Vice Chair of the Historical Preservation Commission; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Burlinski was a dedicated advocate for archaeology and for the value of identifying and preserving undiscovered cultural resources prior to development activities which might place those at risk; and

WHEREAS Deborah Burlinski was a reliable member of the Commission and dedicated to preserving the Borough's history; and

WHEREAS, HPC members enjoyed serving with Deborah Burlinski and wish her well; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission recognizes the service of Deborah Burlinski.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical
Preservation Commission this 17th day of November, 2022.

Jake Anders, Chair

ATTEST:

Gerrit Verbeek, Planner II

Discussion of a List of Historic Themes for Inclusion in the Historic Preservation Plan

Sample motions:

Modifications? “I move to amend the draft list of historic themes to add/remove/change...”

Endorse? “I move to approve the draft list for use in the Historic Preservation Plan”

Draft List – Mat-Su Borough Historical Themes

Source: Historic Preservation Committee, September 2020, with public input

Archaeological and Indigenous Traditions in MSB, 10,000 years before present to AD 1800.

Paleo-Arctic (8000 BCE – 4000 BCE)

Northern Archaic (3000 BCE – 2000 BCE)

Riverine Kachemak (1000 BCE – 500 CE)

Proto-Athabascan

Ahtna

Dena’ina

Alutiiq Interaction

Dena’ina and Ahtna Subsistence Practices and Traditions, AD 1500 to Present

Traditional Practices and Ecological Knowledge

Change Through Time

Russian Orthodoxy

Euro-American Interface

Diseases and Challenges

Commerce and Resource Extraction in the MSB, 1880s to Present.

Indigenous Trade Networks (Dena’ina and Ahtna)

Hunting and Fur Trade

Government Exploration (Military, USGS, BLM Surveyors)

Non-Government Exploration (Paleontology, Glaciology, Naturalism, Mountain Exploration)

Mining (Gold, Coal, Gypsum, Gravel, etc)

Freighting

Commercial Fishing

Tourism / Recreation

ANCSA, ANILCA, and Tribal Governance

(continued on next page)

Transportation Networks in the Matanuska Susitna Borough

Trails (Indigenous, U.S. Military, Prospector)

Waterways

Dog-sledding / Iditarod

Railways

Non-Government Roads (Mining, Homesteader, Burma Road in Big Lake, Permanente Trail)

Government Roads and Highways (Parks, Glenn, ALCAN)

Aviation (Early, Modern, Bush and Backcountry, Glacier and Snow)

Agriculture and Farming

Subsistence / Homesteading

Fur Farming

Commercial Agriculture (Palmer dairy; Trapper Creek grain; Experiment Farm est. 1915)

New Deal / Colony Program

Military influence and activity across the MSB, 1900 to 1970s

Military Infrastructure (Nike Missile Batteries, Operation Washtub)

Economic and Demographic Effects

Patterns of Demography across the MSB, 1800 to Present

Native Populations

Early Immigrant Settlement (Trading Posts, Dispersed Homesteads, Mining and Railroad Towns)

Population Growth and Formation of Modern Communities

Establishment of Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 1964

Impact of North Slope Oil / the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS)

Political History (New Deal Politics, Labor Movements, Conservatism)

Discussion of Formal Condolences for Community Members

Sample motions:

Modifications? “I move to direct our chair and staff member to ...”

Endorse? “I move that the HPC does not involve itself in issuing condolences.”

Should the HPC issue statements or memoranda of condolences upon learning of the death of a community member who was active in local cultural preservation? There is a risk of hurt feelings if someone is missed or perceived to have been excluded, but the HPC could agree to act on requests submitted by Committee members or the public without committing to actively keeping track of obituaries.

For example, Joe Homme (1959-2022) passed away on October 8. He and his wife Cheryl Homme were active members of the Palmer Historical Society, published multiple books, and helped with transcription and preservation of primary source materials.

- James Simpson Diary (Consortium Library HMC-1338) donation and transcription
- Palmer, Alaska: Businesses and Buildings, 1897-1970 (Homme and Homme, 2017)
- Cures and Chaos: The Life & Times of Dr. Vincent Hume and His Impact on a Frontier Alaska Town (Homme, 2007)

Mat-Su Borough Historical Contexts

“Historic context: an organizing structure for interpreting history that groups information about historic properties which share a common theme, common geographical location, and common time period. The development of historic contexts is a foundation for decisions about the planning, identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties, based upon comparative significance.” – Alaska HPP, p.114

Timeline

Source: Alaska State Historic Preservation Plan (2018)

- **Beginnings**
 - Late Pleistocene
- **Interior traditions**
 - Younger Dryas
 - Early Holocene
 - Middle Holocene
 - Late Holocene
- Ath: **Athabaskan Tradition**
- **Maritime Traditions - Southeast Alaska**
 - Early Holocene
 - Middle Holocene
 - Late Holocene
- **Maritime Traditions - Arctic And Bering Sea**
 - Late Holocene
 - Western Thule And The Origins Of Inupiat Culture
- Maritime Traditions-Aleutian Islands
- **Maritime Traditions - Gulf Of Alaska**
 - Ocean Bay Tradition
- Kach: **Kachemak¹**
 - Transitional Kachemak And Koniag
- Alut: **Cook Inlet**
- **Historic Period**
 - Russ: **Russian America, 1741-1867**
 - Early American Alaska, 1867-1897
 - Gold Rush Era, 1897-1912
 - Post Gold Rush, 1912-1939
 - World War II And The Cold War Era, 1941-1959
 - State: **Statehood, Earthquake, and Oil Era, 1959-Present**

Source: Houston & Susitna Historic Preservation Plans (2011)

- Ⓐ • **Earliest Inhabitants, from 8000 years ago**
 - Paleoenvironment, from 12000 years ago
- Ⓑ • **Alutiit and their Ancestors**
 - Prehistory, until ca. 1000 years ago
- Ⓒ • **Dena’ina/Ahtna Athabascans**
 - Prehistory, through 1600s
 - History, from the 1600s
 - Ethnographic accounts, from the early 1700s
- **European Explorers**
 - Ⓓ ◦ Early Contact Period, until 1794
 - Ⓔ ◦ Trade and Missions, 1785-1867
- **American Period, from 1867**
 - Ⓕ ◦ Native and Euro-American Subsistence Lifestyles, from 1867
 - Ⓖ ◦ Fur trapping and trading, Prehistoric times - 1875
 - Ⓗ ◦ Mining (gold, coal), from the late 1800s
 - Ⓘ ◦ Homesteading, farming, agriculture, from the 1900s
- ⓵ • **Community Development, from the 1950s**
- Ⓚ • **Transportation: historic trails, roads, railroads, and air travel, from 1899**
- Ⓛ • **Military: Exploration, World War II, Cold War Era, Korean War, from 1941**
- Ⓜ • **Trade and Commerce, from prehistoric times**

Draft List
Source: Historic Preservation Committee, September 2020

- Ⓐ **Archaeological and Indigenous Traditions in MSB, 10,000 years before present to AD 1800.**
 - Paleo-Arctic (8000 BCE – 4000 BCE)
 - Northern Archaic (3000 BCE – 2000 BCE)
 - Riverine Kachemak (1000 BCE – 500 CE)
 - Proto-Athabaskan
 - Ahtna
 - Dena’ina
 - Alutiit Interaction
- Ⓑ **Dena’ina and Ahtna Subsistence Practices and Traditions, AD 1500 to Present**
 - Ⓕ Traditional Practices and Ecological Knowledge
 - Change Through Time
 - Ⓗ Russian Orthodoxy
 - Euro-American Interface
 - Diseases and Challenges
- Ⓜ **Commerce and Resource Extraction in the MSB, 1880s to Present.**
 - Indigenous Trade Networks (Dena’ina and Ahtna)
 - Ⓖ Hunting and Fur Trade
 - Ⓛ Government Exploration (Military, USGS, BLM Surveyors)
 - Scientific / Academic Exploration (Paleontology, glaciology, naturalism)
 - Ⓗ Mining (Gold, Coal, Gypsum, Gravel, etc)
 - Commercial Fishing
 - Tourism / Recreation
 - Ⓗ ANCSA, ANILCA, and Tribal Governance
- Ⓚ **Transportation Networks in the Matanuska Susitna Borough**
 - Trails (Indigenous, U.S. Military, Prospector)
 - Waterways
 - Dog-sledding / Iditarod
 - Railways
 - Non-Government Roads (Mining, Homesteader, Burma Road in Big Lake, Permanente Trail)
 - Government Roads and Highways (Parks, Glenn, ALCAN)
 - Aviation (Early, Modern, Bush and Backcountry)
- Ⓛ **Agriculture and Farming**
 - Ⓕ Subsistence / Homesteading
 - Ⓖ Fur Farming
 - Commercial Agriculture (Palmer Dairy Farming; Trapper Creek grain farming; Experiment Farm est. 1915)
 - New Deal / Colony Program
- Ⓛ **Military influence and activity across the MSB, 1900 to 1970s**
 - Military Infrastructure (Nike Missile Batteries, Operation Washtub)
 - Economic and Demographic Effects
- ⓵ **Patterns of Demography across the MSB, 1800 to Present**
 - Native Populations
 - Early Immigrant Settlement (Trading Posts, Dispersed Homesteads, Mining and Railroad Towns)
 - Population Growth and Formation of Modern Communities
 - Establishment of Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 1964
 - Impact of North Slope Oil / the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS)

? Any other significant historic themes for the Mat-Su Borough?
Can they be incorporated into existing themes?

- Non-American European Explorers?^{2,3}
- Religious Settlements?

Source: 1987 MSB HPP

- **Pre-Athabaskan**
- **Athabaskan**
 - Tanaina
 - Pre-contact
 - Post-contact
 - Ahtna
 - Pre-contact
 - Post-contact
- **Exploration**
 - Russian
 - English
 - Other (Spanish,² French,³ U.S.)
- **Commercial Exploitation**
 - Trading Posts
 - Roadhouses
- **Transportation/Communication**
 - Trails
 - Roads/Highways
 - Railroad
 - Waterways
- **U.S. Government in Mat-Su Borough**
 - Mining
 - Military Installations
 - Railroad
 - Highways
 - Government Programs
- **Homesteading**
 - Turn Of the Century
 - Railroad
 - 1920's
 - 1940's
 - 1970's
- **Settlers**
 - Traders
 - Fur Farmers
 - Trappers
 - Farmers
 - Homesteaders
 - Government Programs
 - Miners (Coal, Gold)
- **Community Development**
 - Pre – 1935 (Mining & Supply Towns)
 - 1935 – 1964
 - 1964 – Present
 - Pipeline 1974 – 1977
 - Oil workers 1973-1985
 - 1985 – Present
- **Religious and/or Ethnic Settlements**
 - Russian Orthodox
 - Protestant Denominations
 - Nondenominational
 - Lutheran
 - Presbyterian
 - Episcopal
 - Other
 - Catholic
 - Mormon
 - Church Camps
 - Russian Old Believers
 - Scandinavian
 - Slavic
 - Moravians

- National Historic Register Themes**
- Agriculture
 - Architecture
 - Art
 - Commerce
 - Community Planning And Development
 - Education
 - Entertainment/Recreation
 - Exploration/Settlement
 - Industry
 - Literature
 - Politics/Government
 - Prehistoric
 - Religion
 - Social History
 - Transportation
- Major Historical Milestones**
- 1741 – Russian / European Colonization
 - 1867 – American Purchase
 - 1894 – Cook Inlet Gold Rush (1894 - 1896)
 - 1935 – The New Deal / Matanuska Colony
 - 1941 – American entry into World War II
 - 1959 – Statehood
 - 1964 – Mat-Su Borough, Earthquake
 - 1968 - TAPS, Oil, ANCSA, ANILCA

1. The Riverine Kachemak Tradition occupied sites on the Susitna River drainage, 1500 BPE to 1000 PE. (“Dena’ina Prehistory [Draft]” Boraas, 2004.)
2. The Spanish reached Cook Inlet, but never explored the territory of the modern Mat-Su Borough. The 1779 Expedition of Arteaga and Bodega y Quadra, and the 1790 Fidalgo Expedition both reached the Kenai River and Nanwalek region, but not north of 61 latitude
3. French expeditions did not reach Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, or the territory of the modern Mat-Su Borough