

Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor CP

FROM: Robert Ruffner, Director of Planning RR

DATE: August 11, 2022

RE: Ordinance 2022-41, Amending KPB Chapter 21.02 to Establish an Advisory Planning Commission in the Nikiski Area (Mayor)

The Kenai Peninsula Borough ("Borough") has established advisory planning commissions ("APCs") in several communities throughout the Borough, including in Hope, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Anchor Point, and Funny River. These APCs provide residents with an opportunity to participate in land use planning activities proposed for their communities and to provide recommendations to the KPB Planning Commission on land use planning and public land management issues, which may affect the existing and/or future character of their communities.

The Borough Planning Department ("Planning Department") received a letter of interest and a petition requesting that an APC be created in the Nikiski area pursuant to KPB 21.02.030. The Planning Director held a community meeting to discuss the proposed boundaries of the APC as KPB 21.02.040(B) requires. At the community meeting, the Planning Department suggested smaller boundaries because it has some concerns about the petitioned size and the ability to meaningfully represent such a large area, Particularly the west side of Cook Inlet. However, there was unanimous support at the meeting to include the entire area as it mirrors existing service areas. Thus, in the packet are two maps with different proposed boundaries from which the Assembly may choose. The petitioned map and legal description are presented in the ordinance. If the Assembly chooses to set boundaries, which do not include the west side, the Planning Department can further develop the legal description following the alternative map and prepare a substitute ordinance.

The petitioned boundaries encompass approximately 3,500,000 acres; the alternative the Planning Department presented during the community meeting is similar in size to other APCs, approximately 307,400 acres. Both options have pros and cons.

Once the APC is codified, the mayor will appoint seven residents to the APC within 90 days of the adoption of this ordinance. These appointments will be presented to the Assembly for confirmation.

Your consideration is appreciated.