


Kenai Peninsula Borough
Planning Department – Land Management Division

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Hibbert, Assembly President
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor 

FROM: Marcus Mueller, Land Management Officer
On behalf of So Prep Interim Facility Management Team

DATE: November 19, 2020

RE: Status Report on Soldotna Prep Building

The Soldotna Prep Building was vacated by KPBSD in the summer of 2019. Possession of the building thereby returned to KPB. KPB established an interdepartmental Interim Facility Management Team to oversee and make recommendations on the management of the facility. Since being under KPB control, the facility has been used for such things as the Swan Lake Fire Incident Command Post, public safety trainings, and for COVID 19 back-up facility planning. The facility is budgeted out of the general fund, with a realized annual cost of approximately \$200,000.

In early 2020, KPB purchasing and contracting commissioned an architectural study to investigate the So Prep building and the Redoubt Elementary building in relation to elementary educational programming currently being served out of the aging Soldotna Elementary facility. The study will aid the borough and school district in determining the best alternatives for long-term investment among the three facilities. The borough and school district will continue looking at these facilities and the education programs that they serve come up with a best path moving forward.

On the short term, KPB administration has considered three proposals for use of space at the Soldotna Prep Building. Boys and Girls Club of the Kenai Peninsula has proposed use of 10 classrooms and gymnasiums for its safe place for kids programming. Love, INC and its partners have proposed use of gymnasiums for a cold weather shelter. Central Emergency Services has proposed use of 2 classrooms for a training center. The administration has met with the Interim Facility Management Team and has given each proposal due consideration. Based on a variety of factors, a short term use agreement with the B&G Club will be considered for youth programs. An interagency agreement

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with CES for a temporary training center will be worked out administratively. A decision has been made that a use agreement will not be offered to Love INC, and its partners, for a cold weather shelter at Soldotna Prep.

As the Soldotna Prep Building is administered out of the general fund, cost recovery will need to be included as part of use agreements. KPB Land Management will work to prepare agreement terms that address costs for the facility. Additionally, as the discussions will continue to look at the Soldotna Prep Building on the longer term for education programs, the agreements will be short-term to allow for any other plans to take hold. Agreements will go through the current school year and be month-to-month thereafter.