

Application Form

Profile

Mathew

First Name

Brunton

Last Name

Email Address

Valdez Mailing Address (PO BOX # or HCI BOX #)

Home Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Chugach Mountain Institute

Employer

Mountain & Wilderness
Guide, Outdoor &
Environmental Educator

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning & Zoning Commission: Submitted

Question applies to Ports & Harbors Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Permanent Fund Investment Committee

This appointment term is for three years. Are you able to commit to serving for that full time period?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

Required Time Commitment: All board/committee members and commissioners are expected to (1) be physically present at most, if not all, board/committee or commission meetings and (2) review agenda materials prior to arriving for the meeting to be best prepared for discussion and decision making. Are you aware of the time commitment involved in serving on this particular board, committee, or commission? Are you willing and able to commit to regular meetings plus work sessions every month for your full term?

Yes. I've attended a few P&Z meetings in the past year and have been regularly reviewing P&Z commission agendas for the past couple years.

Question applies to multiple boards

Regular attendance at meetings by commissioners/board members is crucial to the commission/board's ability to conduct business. Attendance for commissioners/board members is tracked. Under current City Council policy, the seat of a board/committee member or commissioner will be considered vacant following three consecutive absences from regular meetings. At that time, the member will be asked to either resign or be removed by formal action of Council to allow other interested citizens a chance to serve. Are you committed to in-person attendance at most, if not all, commission/board meetings? Do you understand you must provide your commission/board staff as much notice as possible if you must be absent to ensure a quorum is available to conduct commission/board business?

Yes

How did you learn about this vacancy?

City Website

Interests & Experience

Why are you interested in serving on a City of Valdez board or commission?

There's no place in the world I'd rather live than Valdez. It is surrounded by some of the greatest mountains and wilderness on the planet, which provide adventure unlike no other place. Prior to moving to Valdez, I'd lived in Anchorage for 16 years. I explored the state of Alaska and its mountains extensively during that time. I came to Valdez many times, practically once a month for a couple years to ski and climb, before moving here. I'm interested in joining the P&Z commission to ensure socially and ecologically responsible land use in the area. I would like to help Valdez achieve its potential as the best outdoor recreation destination in Alaska in a way that improves the community by diversifying and bolstering the economy but also while protecting the integrity of the raw, unspoiled, and un-commercialized wilderness that makes this place so unique. I believe the raw, unspoiled wilderness in this area is what makes it so unique and valuable. Gentle, subtle, sustainable development that promotes healthy outdoor recreation and exercise (that isn't infrastructure intensive) is what I believe is the key to unlocking Valdez's outdoor potential for economic diversification and growth as well as community wellness. The development of a low-impact trail network for alpine access that would make Valdez one of the greatest hiking, backpacking, backcountry skiing, and mountaineering destinations in North America. This isn't as big a task as it seems. It just requires a vision for how to create a unique, low-impact, and also very affordable trail network to get through the lower elevation Chugach jungle of our temperate rainforest ecosystem. I've been contemplating this vision for years and developing it daily since I moved here. That said, this needs to be done sensitively to avoid impacts to both the human and non-human local community. Insensitive outdoor development and trail building in the area could lead to overuse that negatively affects residents' (i.e. taxpayers') experience. I've also come to realize that Valdez is one of the greatest motorsports destinations in the world. Specifically, I now view snowmobiling as the pinnacle of motorsports and have come to realize that Valdez is perhaps the greatest sled destination in the world. I want to protect residents' access to the vast tracts of land they currently enjoy for motorsports in a way that respects the environment and other user groups. I believe this is better achieved through building a culture of ethical motorized use rather than government regulation. I live in the Robe River neighborhood and currently enjoy what very well may be the best from-the-house snowmachining on Earth: it's possible for me to ride my sled from my house to the Arctic Ocean, Bering or Chukchi seas, or into Canada. I want to protect that for future generations.

Mathew Brunton

Please outline your education, work, and volunteer experience which will assist you in serving on a City of Valdez board/commission.

I have a BA Psychology and MS Outdoor & Environmental Education from Alaska Pacific University, through which my studies focused on outdoor recreation and wellness (individual and community) as well as avalanche education and snow science. As an outdoor professional with diverse experience throughout Alaska since 2006, and as the owner of a statewide mountain and wilderness guiding business, I understand the complexities of land management in Alaska due to the majority of land in the state being public and managed by an array of federal, state, and municipal agencies. PLEASE DO NOT SHARE MY RESUME PUBLICLY - FOR COUNCIL & CITY STAFF REVIEW ONLY

