

Donna L. Schantz
P.O. Box 1224
Valdez, AK 99686
(907) 255-5116

September 12, 2018

Ms. Sheri Pierce
City Clerk
City of Valdez
P.O. 307
Valdez, AK 99686

SUBJECT: Expression of interest to serve on the City of Valdez Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

Dear Ms. Pierce:

I am writing to express interest in volunteering as a member of the City of Valdez Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. I have lived in Valdez since 1997, and hope to stay for the foreseeable future. I have a vested interest in helping the City plan for future industrial, commercial, residential and public land uses that will protect our unique natural environment while also enhancing our economic productivity and diversification.

From 2012 to 2014 I served as an elected member of the Valdez City Council. During that time I participated in the tail end of a multi-year strategic planning effort involving over 70 community volunteers that served on eight different issue-specific planning groups. A considerable amount of time and energy was dedicated to this effort. In 2014 I participated in a city-sponsored community training session hosted by the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (UACED) to help facilitate a process called "Strategic Doing," designed to kick off an effort to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy. Unfortunately, neither of these efforts were overly successful in achieving their ultimate goal of creating a useful roadmap for City leaders, staff, and the community (but at least I was not involved with the development of the grain silos). I am hopeful this current effort will have better results.

Attached is my biographical sketch. Please forward this submittal to the City Council for their review and consideration. If I am appointed to this committee I will do what I can to provide sound recommendations, and to represent the interests of all sectors of the community. I hope that my application is favorably received.

Sincerely,



Donna Schantz

**Biographical Sketch
Donna L. Schantz
September 2018**

Donna Schantz moved to Valdez in 1997 after her late husband won 20 acres of land in Jack Bay through the Alaska State Homestead Land Lottery. Schantz is currently the executive director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC). Prior to this appointment she served as the organization's director of programs. In her role at the PWSRCAC she works with citizens and community leaders throughout the Exxon Valdez oil spill region to protect the environment and socio-economic well-being of Prince William Sound and its downstream communities. Notable accomplishments include her work towards the passage of legislation for dual escorts in Prince William Sound in 2010, and recognition by the U.S. Coast Guard in 2015 for her professionalism, positive demeanor, open communications, and contributions in support of the Prince William Sound Subarea Committee. She has worked for the Citizens' Council in Valdez since 1999.

Prior to working for the PWSRCAC, Schantz worked in various positions in Valdez including the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau, City of Valdez Small Boat Harbor, and Stan Stephens Cruises and Tours.

Schantz served as an elected member of the Valdez City Council from 2012 to 2014. She is a current standing member of City of Valdez Mayor's Flood Mitigation Task Force, and also volunteers as Secretary of the local Boy Scout Troop 311 Committee.

Schantz was born and raised on Long Island in New York. She received a B.A. in fine arts from Providence College in Rhode Island. In 1989 she was production assistant for an advertising agency in New York City. In 1991 Schantz moved to Juneau, Alaska and was hired by gold mining company where she assisted with the preparation of environmental permit applications for Alaskan projects and other national and international sites. In this role she worked as a liaison between state, federal and city agencies as well as native corporations and local interest groups regarding environmental matters. In 1995 she was the recipient of the 1995 president's award for North American operations from the company.

Schantz lives in Valdez with her two children Timothy "Eider" and Ellie, ages 14 and 13 respectively.