



**Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission**  
Historic Landscapes Subcommittee  
Legal Action Report



**Friday, February 11, 2022**

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Friday, February 11, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Grede at 10:33 a.m. Those present and absent were:

**Members Present:**

- Steve Grede, Chair
- Alyce Sadongei
- Jan Mulder
- Geoffrey Ellwand (joined about 11:20 a.m.)

Helen Erickson: TPCHC Non-Voting Citizen Advisory Member

**Members Absent:**

- J.J. Lamb

**Guests:**

- Jodie Brown, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Officer
- Jason Isenberg, REALM
- Ava Butler, Villa Catalina Homeowner’s Association
- Alinda Hakanson, President of Villa Catalina Villa Catalina Homeowner’s Association
- William Patrick O’Brien, Villa Catalina Homeowner’s Association
- Mary Pierce, Villa Catalina Homeowner’s Association
- Lisa Novak-Hopkins, Villa Catalina Homeowner’s Association
- Nate Ritchie, Wheat Design Group
- Bryan Celius, Recreation Manager, Tucson Parks and Recreation

**2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee Minutes from Meeting of: 1-10-2022 (Discussion/Action)**

Commissioner Mulder moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Sadongei, and passed 3-0.

**3. Review Cases**

a. Villa Catalina, 521 N. Country Club Rd., Landscape – Long-term landscaping plan

The following vegetation substitutions were discussed, concerns raised and suggestions made.

- Turf as needed: substitution suggestions include Dalea x 'Sierra Gold' or Rosmarinus officinalis prostrate varieties. Mr. Isenberg clarified that turf substitutions are to be planted in areas of removed turf. Members suggested that Tradescantia pallida/Purple Heart would be an unlikely equivalent because of the purple color.
- Ligustrum lucidum can be used as a foundation planting: substitution suggestions include Rhus ovata and Callistemon viminalis 'Little John.'
- Pittosporum sp.: substitution suggestions include Myrtus communis 'Boetica' and Maytenus phyllanthoides/Mangle dulce.
- Buxus microphylla (Littleleaf Boxwood): if viable, retain. If a replacement is needed, Carissa macrocarpa 'Boxwood Beauty' is a suitable substitution.
- Lantana camara mix: should be retained as historically used. Lantana montevidensis and cultivars can be considered.
- Leucophyllum frutescens: suggested substitution is another Leucophyllum of similar appearance.
- Nandina domestica: where substitution is required, Hamelia patens 'Dwarf Red'.
- Tecomaria capensis: retained as possible. If a small shrub is needed, Justicia spicigera/Mexican honeysuckle is appropriate.
- The southeast planter, currently planted with a bougainvillea, may have been intended as a fountain and/or annual color accent feature. The accent plants suggested would be appropriate. A suggestion was made to include deeper green color plants. Desert accents could reference our desert environment.
- Additional small trees, symmetrically placed, are appropriate along the sides of the pool area. This will maintain the open volume of the space. Texas Mountain Laurel may be appropriate as it is evergreen.

Commissioner Grede moved that the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee recommend the concept and selections as discussed, including:

- Lawn replacements will mimic the color of green turf;

- Likely former perennial beds in the northwest and southeast can have more color with deep green contrast.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mulder and passed with a roll call vote of 4-0.

b. Fort Lowell Park trees, 2900 N. Craycroft

Mr. Celius introduced the conversion of the wading pool into a splash pad and pony field improvements at Fort Lowell Park.

Mr. Ritchie presented the plan of the addition of five *Chilopsis linearis*/Desert willow trees north of wading pool/splash pad.

Commissioner Mulder moved that the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee recommend the approval of the plan to plant five Desert willow trees along the north edge of the proposed splash pad. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellwand and passed with a roll call vote of 4-0.

Mr. Celius showed the planned tree replacement for the pony field area. Ms. Brown read the Fort Lowell Historic District guidelines for landscape which favors native desert plant material.

Commissioner Sadongei moved that the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee recommend the approval of the plan as presented but ask the designers to consider replacing the Elm and Pistache with native tree species. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellwand and passed with a roll call vote of 4-0.

4. **Current Issues for Information/Discussion and Action**

a. Rincon Heights

No update at this time.

b. Reid Park and Zoo Expansion

Ms. Erickson gave an update.

c. TCC Music Hall temporary fence

Ms. Brown reported that it is being worked on and no update at this time.

d. Incorporation of the TPCHC Task Force on Inclusivity Report Recommendations into the subcommittee's work

Commissioner Grede reported that Rikki Riojas offered to help the HLS with the nomination to name the Tucson Community Center landscape for Alva Torres.

e. Historic Landscapes Subcommittee's role on divided historical commissions

Ms. Brown reported that there is nothing to report at this time. Discussion followed.

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.