



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

**Monday, December 12, 2022**

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

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

Meeting was called to order by Chair Grede at 10:04 a.m. Those present and absent were:

**Members Present:**

Steve Grede, Chair

J.J. Lamb

Alyce Sadongei (left at 11:06 a.m.)

Geoffrey Ellwand (joined at 10:20 a.m.)

**Members Absent:**

Jan Mulder

**Guests:**

Bill Du Pont: Former President of the Colonia Solana Neighborhood Association

**2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee Minutes from Meeting of: 9-28-2022 (Discussion/Action)**

Commissioner Lamb moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of 9-28-2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sadongei, and passed by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)**

a. Gene C. Reid Park Master Plan Development

The Gene C. Reid Park Masterplan was discussed. Although no presentation was made to HLS, the community survey will close December 19, at 11:59 p.m. The masterplan was discussed utilizing Landscape characteristics defined by the National Park Service (Page et al. 1998).

Each landscape characteristic was discussed in relationship to the masterplan, and concerns were raised when design characteristics were impacted by a concept.

Natural Systems and Features:

The existing wash system is a historic landscape feature and associated elements existing wash system.

Spatial Organization:

It is imperative to keep the feeling of nature in Tucson. The masterplan keeps vehicular circulation outside the park. The parking on the north side is not in keeping with the original park design with visual connection to the residential neighborhood to the north. The integration of active recreation (splash pad and event plaza with multi-use courts) would bring noise and activity to the North Pond.

Land Use:

The increase of active recreation spaces conflicts with the historic park design, which is focused on passive recreation (open to strolling, picnicking, and other unstructured activities).

Cultural Traditions:

This masterplan will impact the larger community that uses the park, and their voice needs to be heard. Multi-use open space that has the feel of nature with nearby parking has supported Mexican American/Latino cultural traditions such as large, intergenerational social gatherings.

Cluster Arrangement:

Natural, informal, unprogrammed open space is a key character-defining feature of this park. The additional active recreation spaces are in conflict.

Circulation:

The masterplan respects the historic circulation patterns except that parking on the north side is not in keeping with the original park design with visual connection to the residential neighborhood. Parking for the zoo and Hi Corbett Field need to be sufficient, so park use is not negatively impacted.

Topography:

The masterplan's altering of the existing wash impacts the historic topography.

Vegetation:

The committee appreciates the importance of water conservation and plant material that will thrive with changing climate. The tree succession master plan is not the Mediterranean vegetation of the historic park design. The scale, size, color, and growth pattern of succession trees need to be appropriate to the park. This is particularly important in the central portion of the park and allées of trees.

Buildings and Structures:

The retention of the Demeester Outdoor Performance Center in the master plan is appropriate to the historic design.

Views and Vistas:

The masterplan interrupts historic views due to the proposed realignment of the historic wash feature. The view to the north from Barnum hill will not be to nature but to a splash pad.

Constructed Water Features:

The masterplan maintains the constructed water features. The splash pad is very hardscape intensive and not a naturalistic water feature and therefore not in keeping with the historic water-feature forms.

Small-Scale Features:

It is difficult to determine from a master-plan scale.

Commissioner Lamb moved that the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee has reviewed the masterplan for Reid Park and recommends that the chair, Commissioner Grede, prepare a letter about HLS concerns to the historical character of the park and impact on primary users and adjacent neighborhoods. Commissioner Ellwand seconded the motion, which passed by a roll call vote of 3-0.

4. **Current Issues for Information (Discussion/Action)**

- a. Review of TPCHC Plans Review Subcommittee draft of best practices to follow when naming City- and County-owned assets (discussion/action).

No action at this time.

- b. Historic Landscape Subcommittee's role on divided historical commissions

No action at this time.

5. **Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings**

Commissioner Lamb suggests that HLS review the Vail Crossing Design Guidelines and the PAD plan for N2K State Land development near Vail, Arizona.

6. **Call to the Audience (Information Only)**

No comments were received.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.