



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

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 11:02 a.m. via Zoom.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Grede at 11:04 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Steve Grede, Chair
Geoffrey Ellwand
Jan Mulder
J.J. Lamb

Members Absent:

Alyce Sadongei

Guests:

Carlos Lozano, TPCHC Member, Transportation Subcommittee Chair
Jim Glock, West University Neighborhood Association (WUNA)
Treasurer
Betsy Larson, WUNA President
Jodie Brown, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Officer
Tom Fisher, Project Manager, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation
Helen Erickson, TPCHC Member, advisor (joined at 11:05 a.m.)

2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee Minutes from Meeting of: 2-27-2023 (Discussion/Action)

Commissioner Lamb moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of 2-27-2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mulder and passed by a roll call vote of 4-0.

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

a. Anza Park Improvements: shade umbrella and benches

Ms. Besenick presented the shared Anza Park slides. There are two large concrete paved areas to be shaded. Two cantilever shade umbrellas are proposed. In addition, two park benches are proposed adjacent to the play

area. Colors are not currently chosen. Tom Fisher reported that the budget for the proposed improvements will be provided by WUNA.

Durability was questioned, and it was reported that there is a 10-year warranty on the umbrella cloth and 20 years on the structure. The structure meets the Parks and Recreation recommendation for the 12' height of shade sails. The wind load and the footing detail are being investigated by Parks and Recreation.

Color recommendations include dark bronze post to match existing fencing and dark blue or neutral to blend in with the park (to be selected by WUNA). The bench color recommendation is blue to match the play structure.

Commissioner Mulder moved that the HLS recommend the approval of the two shade umbrella structures and two benches for Anza Park with the stipulation that the color of the shade structures be as unobtrusive as possible and that the color of the benches be compatible with the existing play structure. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamb and passed by a roll call vote of 4-0.

Tom Fisher gave an update on Anza Park.

b. Vail Crossing North and N2K Projects near Vail, Arizona

Commissioner Lamb reported that the South Portion went through the review process and has been approved. The North Portion may come up again. N2K and the extension of Loma Alta traffic that empties on Colossal Cave Road could impact historic resources. The Mormon Battalion Southern Immigrant Trail may also be impacted.

Some of the larger concerns are related to increased traffic and its impact on historic resources. The traffic vibration could negatively impact the historic post office and the Santa Rita Shrine.

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

a. Issues for collaboration between Transportation Subcommittee and Historic Landscapes Subcommittee

Commissioner Lozano reported that the work of the Transportation Subcommittee includes mitigating loss of historic properties and structures impacted by road widening. Change to historic character of roadways is an example of where the two subcommittees could work collaboratively. The future expansion of I-11 is another example of a potential intrusion that will impact historic landscapes. The Amphi Plaza should be considered in terms of built and natural resources (the non-canalized wash). HLS may wish to address the Amphi Plaza soon as the design work is available for discussion.

Commissioner Lamb commented that the collaboration between these two subcommittees would help preserve historic character and resources.

Commissioner Lozano asked if Tucson and Pima County might benefit from a document similar to the Phoenix Streetscape Conservation Guide.

Commissioner Erickson mentioned that Tucson neighborhoods are unique, and therefore the creation of a citywide document would be challenging. Cultural asset mapping might be an appropriate alternative.

- b. Historic Landscapes Subcommittee's possible role in researching, nominating, and reviewing rural and cultural landscapes.

No action at this time.

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

No action at this time.

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

[Item heard out of order]

Mr. Fisher reported on Armory Park. Lighting and a restroom will be discussed at a May 20 meeting, and there will also be an online survey to provide an opportunity for public commentary. Eric Barrett was hired as the consultant. Mr. Fisher plan to meet with Council Member Kozachik about improvements to the exterior of the Childrens' Museum in the near future.

Commissioner Grede offered to share historic landscape research for Armory Park and the Carnegie/Children's' Museum block. Commissioner Erickson suggested that the Historic American Landscape Survey for Armory Park be consulted before any design work. She will make this available whenever needed.

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

No comments were received by the deadline.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.