



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

Thursday, July 6, 2023

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Grede at 11:02 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Steve Grede, Chair
Geoffrey Ellwand (lost connection 12:26 and returned 12:31)
J.J. Lamb
Jan Mulder (arrived at 11:06)

Members Absent:

Alyce Sadongei

Guests:

Helen Erickson, TPCHC Member, Advisor
Jodie Brown, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Officer
Lara Hamwey, Deputy Director, COT Parks and Recreation
Jasmine Chan, Capital Programs Administrator, COT Parks and Recreation
Matt Smith, ARC Studios
Dennis Roodvoets, ARC Studios

2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: 6-1-2023 (Discussion/Action)

Commissioner Lamb moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of 6-1-2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellwand and passed by a roll call vote of 4-0.

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

- a. Traffic triangle at 5th/6th Street and Country Club, in front of the individually listed

Villa Catalina and west of El Encanto historic district

Item postponed for a future meeting.

b. Reid Park Masterplan

Ms. Hamwey gave a presentation of the Reid Park Masterplan timeline of engagement and outreach, preserving iconic aspects of the park, and a draft masterplan (https://stories.opengov.com/tucsonaz/published/QMU_Csil6). Included are bird blinds, desert vegetation gardens, a parking structure, the modification of Citation Wash, and a splash pad. Plant substitutions include two velvet mesquites to replace one Aleppo pine, three Little leaf ash for one African sumac, and one foothill paloverde for two Mexican fan palms.

Commissioner Mulder commented that honoring every community need is not necessarily responsive to the historic integrity of the park.

Commissioner Grede shared that the HLS had discussed plans for Reid Park at the Monday, December 12, 2022, meeting and the Wednesday, September 28, 2022, meeting. A letter describing the analysis was sent from the TPCHC. Ms. Hemway suggested that the information provided in the two LARs from these meetings be included in the master document and included in the index for the masterplan.

Commissioner Erickson stressed the need to look forward and suggested that the HLS has worked effectively with a number of other parks in the past. They can provide an overall context for historic landscapes and their defining features. They can also offer advice on maintaining the historic character while addressing water shortages and warming temperatures. The HLS is always willing to collaborate and provide a resource for park planning. She stressed the importance of open space as a character-defining element rather than as unutilized land where specific facilities can be placed. Historic parks were usually designed to offer open space.

Commissioner Grede recommended that before planning begins for a historic or potentially historic park a determination and assessment of the historic character-defining be completed. This would help to avoid conflict such as the conflict that followed the proposed expansion of the Reid Park Zoo to include Barnum Hill.

It was suggested that this discussion be continued after the HLS members had a opportunity to review the current masterplan and make comments.

c. Armory Park Masterplan

Ms. Chan reported on meeting with Commissioners Erickson and Grede on 6-15-23 and read the notes from the meeting. Commissioner Grede suggested that Ms. Chan this summary be provided to Eric Barrett, who is beginning work on the project.

Ms. Erickson reported that this is a much-documented park. She suggested that the HLS provide a systematic analysis based on National Park Service Landscape Characteristics. Commissioner Grede offered to take the lead in providing this assessment.

- d. Drachman Motels- Tucson Inn, El Rancho Motor Hotel, and Frontier Motel, Miracle Mile District

Nothing to report. Include item on future agenda.

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

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

Commissioner Lamb stressed the importance of an assessment of the historic rural landscapes in Vail AZ and the potential impact on two historic adobe structures by a proposed Colossal Cave Road project on the RTA Draft List. Colossal Cave Road is potentially eligible for the National Register. She asked for suggestions about how unincorporated cities can move forward with documentation and preservation plans.

Commissioner Erickson suggested consulting Dan Marriott's book Saving Historic Roads for guidance (*Saving Historic Roads: Design and Policy Guidelines*). She added that University of Arizona students may be able to assist Commissioner Lamb with a survey of Colossal Cave Road at a small hourly rate.

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

No further discussion.

- c. Follow-up on Villa Catalina replacement of turf with artificial turf.

Commissioner Grede reported the possibility of applying for a grant to assess the human comfort difference and microclimate impact between living lawn and artificial turf. He spoke with Rachelle Hornby who has expertise in this area.

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

No additional items.

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

No comments were received by the deadline.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.