



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

April 25, 2024

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. hybrid via Zoom and at Pima Community College, Downtown Campus, Advanced Manufacturing Building, M369 Conference Room, 1255 N. Queen Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85709

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Grede at 10:07 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Steve Grede, Chair
Helen Erickson
Jan Mulder

Members Absent:

Geoffrey Ellwand
J. J. Lamb

Guests:

Michael Becherer, Swaim Associates
Matthew Smith, Arc Studios Inc.
Mary Vanderveer, Los Descendientes de Tucson Board member
Rikki Riojas, Executive Director Mexican American Heritage and History Museum (10:39 a.m.)

2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: 3-28-2024

Commissioner Erickson moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of 3-28-2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mulder and passed by a roll call vote of 3-0.

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

a. City of Tucson Shared Spaces: Parklets + Streateries in Historic Districts

Commissioners Erickson and Mulder reported that there was nothing to report at this time.

b. Sosa-Carillo House landscape, courtesy review, 151 S Granada Ave.

Mr. Becherer presented two draft concept designs for the Sosa-Carillo House landscape as a courtesy review. Rio Nuevo now owns the property, and the lease with Los Descendientes de Tucson is planned to continue. Rio Nuevo committed funds to restore the house. The scope of the project was extended to include the landscape when Los Descendientes de Tucson applied for and received a Mellon Foundation Grant. The project now has a two-million dollar budget. Additionally, Los Descendientes de Tucson raised funds for the restoration of the fountain that was constructed in the 1970s and will remain in its current location.

Mr. Becherer and Mr. Smith discussed proposed changes to the property:

- The shed-roof addition made to the structure in the 1970s will be remodeled. Courtyard paving to be taken up, the space regraded, and brick relayed so that there is an open space around the adobe structure. Planters will be rebuilt, but major plantings will be preserved. If the Lady Banks' rose along is removed, it will either be transplanted or rooted cuttings will be replanted.
- A service drive will be improved south of the structure and a new gated entry on the north side.
- Main Street was a few feet to the west of the Sosa-Carillo House with structures similarly close on the other side. Two concepts for the west side of the property were discussed.
 - The first design concept references the historic location of Main Street for event space. The footprints of demolished structures on the west side may be represented by seat walls and paved areas. Existing trees would be preserved and additional plantings added.
 - The second provides an event space to the west of the Sosa-Carillo House, not referencing Main Street.

Commissioners Erickson, Mulder, and Grede favored the first design concept that references the historic location of Main Street for event space. They suggested that the interpretations of the structures to the west keep the historic alignment in reference to Main Street. Plantings could be heritage plantings traditionally found in the back yards.

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

c. Reid Park Masterplan

Nothing to report at this time.

d. Armory Park Masterplan

Mr. Becherer and Mr. Smith gave a progress update. The performance space with a permanent structure will be centrally located and facing toward the west. The senior center will be the backdrop. The bocce and shuffle board courts will be removed. The dog park in the north portion is still in design. Staff parking will be provided in the desert planting area northeast of the community center. Commissioner Grede suggested succession planting for trees at the park perimeter.

e. Armory Park Masterplan – Children’s Museum Block

Nothing to report at this time.

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

Nothing to report at this time.

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

Nothing to report at this time.

h. Historic Landscape Subcommittee’s possible role in researching, nominating, and reviewing rural and cultural landscapes.

Nothing to report at this time.

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

Commissioner Grede will follow up with Rachelle Hornby.

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

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 23 at 10:00 a.m. Future meetings will be on the 4th Thursday of the month on a regular basis.

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

No comments were received by the posted deadline.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.