



Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Historic Landscapes Subcommittee

Legal Action Report

December 5, 2024

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Thursday, December 5, 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 10:01 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Steve Grede, Chair

Helen Erickson

Geoffrey Ellwand

J. J. Lamb

Members Absent:

Jan Mulder

Guests:

Eric Barrett – ARC Studios

Michael Becherer – Swaim Associates, Ltd.

Liz Farkas – Poster Frost Mirto

Kenneth Imoehl – Pima County Project Design & Construction

Corky Poster – Poster Mirto McDonald

Dan Sharp – Westland Resources

2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: 10-31-2024

Commissioner Erickson moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10-31-2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellwand and passed by a roll call vote of 4-0.

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

a. Sosa-Carrillo House Landscape 151 S. Granada Ave (Full Review)

Commissioner Erickson moved to accept the plan as presented, giving recognition to the historically sensitive work of the team. Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

b. Himmel Park Library, 1035 N. Treat Ave

Commissioner Lamb moved to approve the plan as presented, recognizing that the design concept of a library in a park had been modified to treat the library as a separate unit to better accommodate the current needs of the facility. Commissioner Erickson seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Current Issues for Information (Discussion/Action)

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

Commissioner Erickson moved that the HLS should join with the Transportation Subcommittee to request that the Commission write to Mayor and Council, the Board of Supervisors, the SHPO and the Arizona Preservation Foundation expressing their concern about both the process and the decision reached by the Pima Community College Board to demolish three historic motels, character-defining features that make a major contribution to the streetscape of the Miracle Mile Historic District. Commissioner Ellwand seconded. Motion passed 3-0, with Commissioner Grede abstaining as a faculty member of Pima Community College.

b. Pima County Gateway Zones

Commissioner Lamb suggested that we invite Anita McNamara, Pima County Senior Planner, to the HLS meeting in January.

c. Armory Park Request for Determination of Eligibility

Nothing to report at this time.

d. TEP Midtown Reliability Project

Nothing to report at this time.

e. RTA Next: Colossal Cave Road and Environs

Commissioner Erickson moved that the HLS and the Transportation subcommittee jointly recommend that the Commission write to RTA Next, Mayor and Council, the Board of Supervisors, the SHPO and the Arizona Preservation Foundation that the cultural and historic resources encompassing Colossal Cave Road comprise a rural historic landscape and that the area should be considered as such in future transportation planning. Commissioner Lamb seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

f. City of Tucson and Pima County: Parks and Recreation Surveys on Park Amenities

As per the motion at the 12-13-2024 meeting of the TPCHC, we will work on the draft of a letter.

5. **Current Issues for Information (Discussion only)**

a. Fox Theatre

Nothing to report at this time.

b. Villa Catalina replacement of turf with artificial turf.

Nothing to report at this time.

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

Next HLS meeting is January 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in same location.

Commissioner Lamb will ask Anita McNamara, Pima County Senior Planner, to the HLS meeting in January to present information on Pima County Gateway Zones and the ongoing planning guidelines for public parks.

Commissioner Erickson requested that HLS review the document covering areas of focus for HLS that was passed by the full commission.

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

No comments were received by the posted deadline.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.