



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

February 27, 2025

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025, 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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Grede at 10:05 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Steve Grede, Chair
Helen Erickson
J. J. Lamb

Guests:

Eric Barrett – ARC Studios
Victor Periera – Pima County Parks and Recreation

2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee LAR/Minutes from Meeting(s) of: 1-16-2025 and Joint Historic Landscapes Subcommittee/Transportation Subcommittee of: 2-19-2025 (Discussion/Action)

Commissioner Erickson moved approval and Commissioner Lamb seconded approval of the minutes of the meetings of 1-16-2025 and 2-19-2025. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

- a. Armory Park, 222 S. 5th Ave. – Proposed parking lot south of Senior Center

The parking lot will provide controlled parking for ADA transportation and staff and will eliminate parking in the park itself. The plan included the following items: a 5'-4" fence with decorative tops; 5 ash trees along 13th Street; and additional pistache trees to define the eastern edge of the park. The mural wall

is to be removed after the solicitation of public comment.

Chairman Grede commended the sensitivity of the plan. Commissioner Erickson moved that the plan be accepted as presented; Commissioner Lamb seconded. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

4. Current Issues for Information (Discussion/Action)

a. Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation – Victor Periera

Mr. Periera presented information on the county parks for which he has responsibility and offered information on who was in charge of the maintenance of other parks. He wishes to maintain an ongoing conversation with the subcommittee and will provide information on who to contact with regard to other Pima County parks and open areas.

b. Membership Composition of HLS

With the terming out of Commissioner Ellwand, concerns were raised about the composition of the subcommittee.

c. Historic Landscapes Definition and Criteria – Review

A discussion was held to initiate a review of evaluation criteria developed by the Subcommittee and passed by the full commission in 2014. The Pima County concept of Heritage Connections was introduced. The first step will be to develop a focus statement.

a. National Parks Definition of Landscape

b. CALDOT historic guidelines

c. HLS Modifications to a Designed Historic Landscape document

d. TEP Midtown Reliability Project

The rejection of TEP's proposal by the Planning Commission was noted.

e. RTA Next: Colossal Cave Road and Environs

The ongoing discussion was continued. No action was taken.

5. Current Issues for Information (Discussion only)

a. Fox Theatre

There are regular meetings scheduled between the preservation community and the directors of the Fox Theatre, and concerns for ensuring that the streetscape focus remain on the historic theatre have been raised.

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

No update.

c. Villa Catalina replacement of turf with artificial turf

No update.

6. Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings

Discussion of Historic Landscapes Definition and Criteria will continue.
Jasmine Chan will present for discussion information on Tucson Parks and Recreation program.

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

No comments were received.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.