



**Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission
(TPCHC)**

TPCHC Pima Prospers Working Group

Monday, April 28, 2025

Legal Action Report

This meeting was held via Zoom (with telephone dial-in number option) and open to the public.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Working Group Members Present:

Commissioners Kathe Kubish and J. J. Lamb

Working Group Members Absent:

Commissioner Ken Scoville

Pima County Staff Working Group Members Present:

Courtney Rose

Pima County Staff Working Group Members Absent:

Ian Milliken

Mark Holden

Guests: Rikki Riojas, Anthony Baker, Stephanie Phillips

Andrew Christopher (joined 9:54), Commissioner Erickson (joined 10:07)

**2. Approval of TPCHC Pima Prospers Working Group LAR/Minutes from the Meeting of 4/21/25
(Discussion/Action)**

Commissioner Kubish moved to accept the LAR from 4/21/25, Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion passed unanimously 2-0. (Commissioner Scoville absent)

3. Pima Prospers Review and Update (Courtney Rose and Ian Milliken, Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources) (Information/Discussion)

Courtney Rose presented. The Pima Prospers draft is in the 60-day review period as reported at our last meeting.

4. Pima Prospers: Goals and Objectives (Discussion/Action)

Commissioner Lamb will send out the draft document for review.

5. Deconstruction (Discussion/Action)

Guest speaker, Stephanie Phillips, Senior Program Manager, Deconstruction & Circular Economy, was introduced and gave a very informative presentation about San Antonio's Deconstruction & Circular Economy Program. Thank you to Rikki Riojas for coordinating this presentation.

Remarks by Ms. Phillips included the following:

- **San Antonio** is 7th largest city in the United States, similar in size to Phoenix. They also experience urban sprawl, cold winters, hot summers, and one of the fastest growing metros and regions. Their climate pressure considerations are extreme heat, water and resource scarcity, energy reliability, and associated costs. There is limited state-level support to address climate issues or to support housing needs, which include housing condition and retrofit needs. Their program focuses only on residential buildings. About 600 buildings are demolished annually.
- Their program areas are deconstruction ordinance, deconstruction workforce training, material innovation center, strategic partnerships, and community engagement. Their program is housed in the Office of Historic Preservation. The team is two people who have degrees in Historic Preservation. This is reflected in how the policy was written and how it is administered. They would not be able to support the program and its administration without their policy of developing strategic partnerships and community engagement. Demolition is **not** a preservation alternative. The priority is always to preserve in place. Their program is focused on reusing building materials as a community benefit with an emphasis on reuse, ideally for its original purpose (siding is siding, doors are doors)
- For their Program Pillars/Policy Drivers, equal weight is placed on equity, affordable housing, public health and waste management
- Results: 125+ buildings have been deconstructed that would have otherwise been demolished with a diversion rate of 60% across all reported projects, the majority have been for reuse. More than 550 tons of materials have been reused. They are working to track how many projects have been diverted from a demo or deconstruction timeline to preservation – to date that number is at least 3. Staff have seen a shift in power from demolition contractors to deconstruction contractors. Their program to train deconstruction contractors is key to this success. They began this training before implementing the policy. This training continues.

6. Heritage Connections (Discussion/Action)

No discussion was held. No action was taken.

7. Gateway Zones: Discussion (Discussion/Action)

No discussion was held. No action was taken.

8. Call to the Audience (Information Only)

No comments were received by the posted deadline.

9. Schedule and Future Agenda Items

Next week we plan to meet for two hours. Loren from Portland has some availability. We will look at when we can schedule her presentation.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.