



Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Historic Landscapes Subcommittee
Legal Action Report

May 29, 2025

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Thursday, May 1, 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

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The 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
Blake Houghton
Julie Rigoli
J. J. Lamb (Virtual)

Members Absent:

None

Guests:

Jasmine Chan, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation
Joe O'Neill, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation, Project Manager
Gary Grizzle, WLB Group
Theona Hatch, WLB Group
Jon Choi, City of Tucson Storm to Shade Program, Project Manager
Emilie Fisher, Planning and Community Development
Peter Lee, Lead Planner, Planning and Community Development
Jennifer Patton, Wilder Landscape Architects
Ben Wilder, Wilder Landscape Architects
Mike Culbert, Swaim Associates
Daniel Hill, Fort Lowell Historic Zone Advisory Board
Elaine Hill, Fort Lowell Resident (former Fort Lowell Historic Zone Advisory Board member)
Mary Lou Fragomeni-Nuttall, Fort Lowell Historic Zone Advisory Board Chair
Kathleen Conti

2. HLS Approval of HLS Subcommittees LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: 5-01-2025

(Discussion/Action)

Commissioner Erickson moved approval of the minutes of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee meeting of 5-01-2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Houghton and passed by a roll call vote of 5-0.

3. Review Case (Discussion/Action)

The order of review cases was modified by consensus of the subcommittee and guests.

- a. Himmel Park Splash Pad, 1000 N. Tucson Blvd
Jasmine Chan and Gary Grizzle presented.
Discussion was held. Action was taken.

Commissioner Erickson moved and Commissioner Houghton seconded the following, noting that the subcommittee appreciated Mr. Grizzle's thoughtful design. The plan is recommended as presented with the suggestion that the proposed section of artificial turf be replaced with turf for both historic and ecological reasons.

The motion passed 5-0.

- b. Stone Avenue Youth Transitional Housing Project Landscape Plan, 1136 N. Stone Avenue. Housing and Community Development rehabilitation project for the former EconoLodge building.

Jennifer Patton presented, with additional comments by Ben Wilder, Peter Lee, Mike Culbert and Jon Choi. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

Commissioner Erickson moved and Commissioner Houghton seconded the following, noting with appreciation for the rehabilitation of this historic property. The plan is recommended as presented with the suggestion that the planting replacing the former hedge on Stone Avenue be composed of milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*) interspersed with purple three awn grass (*Aristida purpurea*) to reference the original hedge.

The motion passed 5-0.

- c. Review of draft Fort Lowell HPZ design guidelines for landscape

Elaine Hill presented. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

Commissioner Erickson moved and Commissioner Houghton seconded the following recommendation, noting with appreciation the research undertaken by Fort Lowell HPZ members.

- The design guidelines should distinguish between "landscaping" and "contextual historic/environmental features" to provide an appropriate basis for evaluating landscape modifications; and
- A list of landscape characteristics should be developed, based on National Register Bulletin 30 (Rural Historic Landscapes), with reference to Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide.

The motion passed 5-0.

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

- a. Review of draft Barrio Historico HPZ design guidelines for landscape.
- b. Continuing discussion of Landscape Review criteria passed by TPCHC in 2016.

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

No comments were received by the posted deadline.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.