



Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Historic Landscapes Subcommittee
Legal Action Report

July 31, 2025

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. hybrid via Zoom and at Pima Community College, Downtown Campus, Advanced Manufacturing Building, M335 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 11:01 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Steve Grede, Chair
Helen Erickson
Julie Rigoli (arrived 10:03 a.m.)
J. J. Lamb (Virtual; left at 10:45 a.m.)

Members Absent:

Blake Houghton

Guests:

Hope Hennessey (Barrio Histórico Historic Zone Advisory Board)
John Burr (former chair APHZAB, arrived 10:13 a.m.)

2. HLS Approval of HLS Subcommittees LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: 6-26-2025 (Discussion/Action)

Commissioner Erickson moved approval of the minutes of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee meeting of 6-26-2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamb and passed by a roll call vote of 3-0. (Commissioners Houghton and Rigoli absent)

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

a. Activate El Presidio Streetscape

Concerns have been raised about the impact of this project on significant physical materials of the El Presidio historic district – specifically by installing footings and attachments to historic buildings.

In January 2024, the subcommittee reviewed the plans submitted for this project. At the time, the subcommittee informed the project presenters that a plan to install

a permanent concrete bench tangent to the Museum of Art building was not acceptable, and that all elements installed by the project had to be temporary. Street painting was considered acceptable because it would deteriorate and fade over time.

The plans as presented did not include any drawings of footings or other intrusions into historic materials. It is difficult to identify these physical impacts. Commissioner Grede moved that he contact Desiree Aranda (HPO) by email to ask her to investigate this potential issue, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rigoli. The motion passed 4-0. (Commissioner Houghton absent)

b. Barrio Histórico HPZ Draft Design Guidelines, Streetscape and Landscape

The draft guidelines provided to the subcommittee were reviewed with Hope Hennessey. She will discuss them with the Barrio Histórico Historic Zone Advisory Board and will return to a future meeting if there are additional questions.

c. List of Historic Parks in the City of Tucson

Commissioners and Grede and Erickson met on July 25 to continue the work of evaluating the presence of historic resources in Tucson parks (basing their work on the list drawn from the City of Tucson GIS site). Potential review categories have been determined:

- Parks with significant historic or cultural resources
- Parks with potential historic resources (includes all parks established in 1975 or earlier). These require evaluation beyond what is immediately visible in historic photographs.
- Parks less than 50 years old with significant cultural or artistic resources (National Register Criteria Consideration G)
- Parks established between 1975 and 1985 that may be found to have significant resources in the future. These require evaluation.
- Parks with no known historic resources

When the work is completed, it will be made generally available by means of a GIS-based map.

d. Historic Landscapes Definition and Review Criteria

This discussion will be continued during future meetings.

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

- a. Working Categorization of Tucson Parks: Presence or Absence of Historic Elements
- b. Historic Landscape Definition and Review Criteria (continued).

- c. Review of Additional Landscape Guidance for Barrio Histórico HPZ draft Design Guidelines (if requested)

5. Call to the Audience (Information Only)

No comments were received by the posted deadline.

John Burr offered to provide additional assistance to Barrio Histórico HZAB if requested.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.