



Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Historic Landscapes Subcommittee
Legal Action Report

December 18, 2025

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Thursday, December 18, 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 Erickson at 10:01 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Helen Erickson, Chair
J. J. Lamb
Tim Hagyard

Members Absent:

Blake Houghton
Julie Rigoli

Guests:

Steve Grede, Citizen Advisor
Desiree Aranda, COT Historic Preservation Officer
Courtney Rose, Program Manager / Cultural Resources / Pima County
Eric Barrett, Arc Studios
Phil Swaim, Swaim Associates

2. **HLS Approval of HLS Subcommittees LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: 11-20-2025 (Discussion/Action)**

Commissioner Hagyard moved to approve the minutes of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee meeting of 11-20-2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamb and passed by a roll call vote of 3-0.

3. **Review Cases (Discussion/Action)**

a. **Preparation of a historic context study**

Ms. Aranda provided information The timeline will permit Citywide outreach.

b. Minor proposed changes at Parks identified as Category 1 or 2

The proposal for the review of small changes by Commissioners Erickson or Houghton has been approved. Ms. Chan will initiate these requests with a copy to Ms. Aranda. The reviews will subsequently be documented by email and reported to the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee.

c. Butterfield Trail in Pima County

Ms. Rose updated the group on the multiple historic layers that underlie the alignment of the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail through Pima County. She also reported on recent looting attempts both at the Seneca Station and at the Pantano Townsite.

Commissioners raised concerns about the preservation of the historic trail alignment and viewshed contained in the Pima County parcel (30501009B) now being sold for use as a data center location. The alignment runs across the northeast corner of the property directed toward a significant landmark in the Tucson Mountains.

Action was taken.

Commissioner Lamb moved that the subcommittee request that the Tucson–Pima County Historical Commission submit a letter to Pima County and City of Tucson staff, elected officials, and other relevant stakeholders, asking that they make every reasonable effort to protect, preserve, celebrate, and interpret the Butterfield Overland Trail. The Butterfield Overland Trail has been designated a National Historic Trail and is locally designated as a Priority Cultural Resource by Pima County.

The letter should include the following text: *The Butterfield Overland Trail is a network of historic alignments and station sites that includes significant landmark viewsheds, cultural landscapes, and archaeological and visual evidence that remain present on the ground today. The Commission respectfully requests that Pima County and the City of Tucson review their landholdings to identify opportunities to protect these resources and to link existing and future trail systems within their jurisdictions to the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail currently under development by the National Park Service.*

The intent of this request is to support coordinated planning efforts that enhance public access, preservation, interpretation, and long-term stewardship of the Butterfield Overland Trail on County and City lands.

This letter of interest and support should be sent to the following:

- Pima County Administrator
- Pima County Board of Supervisors
- Pima County Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation Office,
Conservation Lands & Resources
- Pima County Office of Economic Development
- Pima County Development Services
- Pima County Attractions and Tourism
- Pima County Parks and Recreation
- City of Tucson Mayor and Council

- City of Tucson Planning and Development Services
- City of Tucson Parks & Recreation
- Visit Tucson
- Arizona Office of Tourism
- Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hagyard and passed by a vote of 3-0.

4. Courtesy Review

a. Arizona Hotel

Mr. Barrett presented, explaining the need for vehicle access to parking from the Broadway entrance to the hotel. This will not directly impact the historic TCC landscape designed by Garrett Eckbo. The hotel's location adjacent to the former Calle Real and the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail offers many opportunities for integration into historic Tucson. These options will be further discussed. Mr. Barrett will contact Ms. Aranda to arrange a presentation for the Plans Review Subcommittee.

5. Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings

a. Arizona Hotel

b. Discussion of issues that require the participation of more than one subcommittee as might be the case with Transportation and Historic Landscapes

c. Review of additional landscape guidance for Barrio Histórico HPZ draft design guidelines (if requested)

Future meetings will take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM.

6. Call to the Audience (Information Only)

No comments were received prior to the posted deadline, and no member of the audience was present.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.