



Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Historic Landscapes
Subcommittee Legal Action
Report

April 22, 2026

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 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 at 10:00 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Helen Erickson, Chair
Tim Hagyard
J.J. Lamb (via Zoom)

Members Absent:

Jessica Bassi
Blake Houghton

Guests:

Stephen Grede, TPCHC Non-Voting Advisory Member
Eliot Welch, Project Manager, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation (via Zoom; left 10:39 a.m.)
Jonathan Knighton-Wisor, Cultural Resources Manager, City of Tucson (COT) Historic Preservation Office (left at 10:30 a.m.)
Kathe Kubich, Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission (arrived via Zoom 10:39 a.m.; left 11:11 a.m.)
Courtney Rose, Program Manager, Cultural Resources, Pima County (arrived via Zoom 11:08 a.m.)

2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee (LAR/Minutes from Meeting of:

March 25, 2026 (Discussion Action)

Commissioner Hagyard moved to approve the minutes of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee meeting of 3-25-2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamb and passed by a roll call vote of 3-0.

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

a. El Pueblo Complex (El Pueblo Park) - Part 2

Eliot Welch presented a project that included new playground equipment, a splash pad, a walking path, wayfinding improvements, restrooms, pickleball courts, and dog park. Mr. Knighton-Wison confirmed that no significant archaeological sites were present. Six buildings were identified as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. There will be no exterior impact to these buildings. No trees will be removed, and approximately 120 new trees will be added to the landscape. Some turf will be removed in the south to permit installation of a detention basin (turf in this area is in poor condition).

Commending the proposal and the presentation, Commissioner Hagyard moved and Commissioner Lamb seconded to accept the proposal as presented, with a request to return to the subcommittee with information on the new signage, which will include historic content. The motion passed 3-0.

4. Armory Park Informational Signage (Discussion/Action)

Ms. Kubich presented information on the content and condition of the signage along 6th Avenue in front of Armory Park. This signage was originally funded by the Arizona Preservation Foundation and the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission. Two of three signs are angled and set on a designed wrought iron base; the other is vertical and set on two utilitarian posts. All text is difficult to read, and the text on the vertical sign is illegible. Discussion was held. It was agreed that

- the signs, although intrusions into the historic landscape, provide valuable interpretive information;
- the vertical sign is stylistically and functionally inappropriate;
- the angled signs are more stylistically and functionally appropriate, although lower stands would be less intrusive;
- the content of the signs should be revised to include information about the style and social context of the park itself.

Commending the work of Commissioner Kubish, Commissioner Lamb moved and Commissioner Hagyard seconded that efforts should be made to renew the signage and that funding should be sought to support this. The motion passed 3-0.

5. Potential Options for the Interpretation of the Butterfield Trail in Tucson and Pima County (Discussion/Action)

Dr. Rose provided an update on Pima County's program for Priority Cultural Resources and issues surrounding protection of such resources from vandalism and misuse. The subcommittee agreed that this is a topic for ongoing discussion.

6. Change of Meeting Format from Hybrid to Virtual (Discussion/Action)

This item was postponed to a future meeting to enable all members of the subcommittee to participate in the discussion.

7. Next Meeting: June 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

The date and time of the next meeting was announced.

8. Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings

Future agenda items must be communicated to Chair Erickson no later than the third Tuesday of the month.

9. Call to the Audience (Information Only)

No public comments were received by the posted deadline. No audience was present at the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.