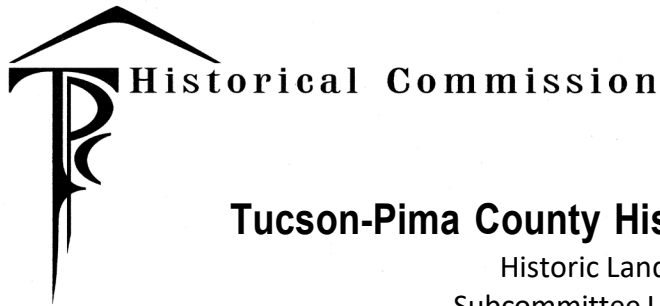




Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Historic Landscapes
Subcommittee Legal Action
Report

June 24, 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 10:01 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Helen Erickson, Chair

Tim Hagyard (in person until 11:10, after which he continued to participate via phone)

J.J. Lamb (via Zoom)

Blake Houghton (via Zoom)

Members Absent:

Jessica Bassi

Guests:

Stephen Grede, TPCHC Non-Voting Advisory Member

Jonathan Knighton-Wisor, Cultural Resources Manager, City of Tucson (COT)
Historic Preservation Office

Caleb Ortega, Storm to Shade

Ian Milliken, Historic Preservation Officer, Pima County

2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee (LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: April 22, 2026 (Discussion Action)

Commissioner Hagyard moved to approve the minutes of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee meeting of 4-22-2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamb and passed by a roll call vote of 4-0.

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

a. Herrera Quiroz Park Path

Caleb Ortega presented a proposal to establish an asphalt walking path around the northeast perimeter of the park and to replace an existing seating area with a ramada.

Commissioner Hagyard moved and Commissioner Lamb seconded to accept the proposal as presented, acknowledging a loss of turf, the addition of trees, and an appropriate change of use. The motion passed 4-0.

b. Hydroseeding of Native Grasses at Historic Fort Lowell Parade Grounds

Ian Milliken presented a plan for hydroseeding the parade ground using a xeric mixture of largely native seeds. Some scarification will be required to establish the planting. Jonathan Knighton-Wisor confirmed that this would have no archaeological impact.

Commissioner Hagyard moved and Commissioner Houghton seconded to accept the proposal as presented, acknowledging a loss of turf, the addition of trees and an appropriate change of use. The motion passed 4-0.

4. Armory Park Review (May 18, 2026) (Discussion/Action)

On May 18, 2026, Jonathan Knighton-Wisor of the City of Tucson Historic Preservation Office, Commissioner Erickson of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee, and Stephen Grede of the Armory Park Historic Zone Advisory Board met with Blue Baldwin from Storm to Shade to discuss a planting plan for an area at the northeast corner of the Senior Center at Armory Park. A suggestion was proposed and agreed upon to replace three ocotillo with three desert ironwood trees to maintain the alignment of trees along East Twelfth Street. MS. Baldwin confirmed the design change in an email (dated June 4, 2026) to Mr. Grede and Commissioner Erickson.

All participants agreed that this model for a collaborative process to review minor landscape changes was an appropriate and expeditious way to address minor landscape changes that previously would have required review by the subcommittee as a whole.

Commissioner Hagyard moved and Commissioner Lamb seconded that in the future minor City of Tucson landscape reviews would be conducted by a member of the City of Tucson Historic Preservation Office staff, a commissioner serving on the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee, and a representative from the appropriate Advisory Board. The motion passed 4-0.

5. Revised Pima County Cultural Landscape Definition (Discussion/Action)

Ian Miliken presented Pima County's working definition of "Cultural Landscape" as influenced by ongoing discussions with Tribal representatives:

A geographic area that includes cultural, natural, ecological, and spiritual features associated with the historical, cultural, ceremonial, or traditional practices of a community. Cultural landscapes may reflect long-standing relationships among people, landforms, waters, plants, animals, sacred beings or presences, oral traditions, and other interconnected systems and meanings that shape cultural identity and continuity. These landscapes may be understood through lived experience, ceremonial practice, oral traditions, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and other knowledge systems, including relationships that extend beyond the solely physical or visible environment.

It was noted that this definition added spiritual values and Traditional Ecological Knowledge to earlier definitions. Commissioner Houghton raised editorial concerns about the redundancy of "cultural landscapes" within the definition itself, but subcommittee members did not feel that this invalidated the useability of the definition.

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: July 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

The date and time of the next meeting was announced. This subcommittee usually meets at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month but will meet a week earlier in July due to a conflict with the National Alliance of Preservation Commission meetings during our usual meeting date.

8. Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings

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

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 11:26 a.m.