



Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission
Historic Landscapes Subcommittee
Legal Action Report

October 30, 2025

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Thursday, October 30, 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 10:01 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Steve Grede, Chair
Helen Erickson
Blake Houghton (arrived 10:02 a.m.)
Julie Rigoli
J. J. Lamb

Members Absent:

None

Guests:

Desiree Aranda, COT Historic Preservation Officer
Jason Lilenthal, COT Historic Preservation Planner
Jasmine Chan, COT Parks and Recreation Capital Programs Administrator
Greg Jackson, COT Parks and Recreation
Joe O'Neil, COT Parks and Recreation
Matt Christman, COT Parks and Recreation (joined at 10:30)
Michael Beckerer, Swaim Associates Architects
Nate Miller, Swam Associates Architects
Eric Barrett, Arc Studios

2. HLS Approval of HLS Subcommittees LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: 9-25-2025 (Discussion/Action)

Commissioner Erickson moved to approve the minutes of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee meeting of 9-25-2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Houghton and passed by a roll call vote of 5-0.

3. Review Cases (Discussion/Action)

a. Sosa Carrillo House landscape revisions

A presentation of modifications from the previously reviewed plans was made by Ms. Aranda with support from Mr. Barrett and Mr. Beckerer. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

Commissioner Erickson moved and Commissioner Houghton seconded to approve the revisions as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Gene C. Reid Park interactive water feature and ramada.

Mr. Jackson presented. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

Commissioner Houghton moved that HLS recommends approval of the plans as presented:

- HLS is grateful for the opportunity to comment on and provide input on the project
- The plans maintain a net balance of structural and shade elements maintain the historical usage of the park
- The additional planting will help to screen the water feature
- The project is set back from the pond
- We recommend installation without fencing or physical barriers maintaining the historic circulation of the park
- There is concern that milkweed seeds may clog the water system

Commissioner Rigoli seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

c. Gene C. Reid Park Outdoor Performance Center

This item was moved to third place at the request of the applicant.

Mr. Becherer gave a presentation. Discussion was held. No action was taken. The subcommittee appreciated efforts to maintain the style and character of the existing performance space while recognizing the need for fencing to expand the use of the facility and recommended greater physical access to the facility from the west side. No motion was made, as this was a courtesy review and will be brought back to the HLS in the future.

d. Dell Ulrich Golf Course and 22nd Street Walking Path Improvements

This item was heard second at the request of the applicant. Mr. Jackson presented. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

Commissioner Grede moved to recommend approval of the plans as presented:

- We commend the design team's sensitivity to the historic park and golf course
- The design respects the existing topography and drainage
- The curvilinear path circulation form is maintained and improved
- The move of the street-adjacent path conforms with the treatment of other park boundaries
- The removal of turf is balanced by the grouped planting of trees and shrubs that provide shade and present a similar intensity of green

- Mixed plantings of conifer and evergreen reference the style of historic plantings
- Public access to the bird watching site is consistent with the initial intent of the park donor

Commissioner Rigoli seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

e. La Madera Park splash pad and walking path

Mr. Christman presented. Discussion was held. Action was taken.

Commissioner Houghton moved that HLS recommends approval of the plans as presented:

- HLS is grateful for the opportunity to comment on and provide input on the project
- We commend the preservation of the palm trees as a historic creator of space and character-defining feature
- The mulch be continuous around the perimeter of the park to facilitate the future planting of trees that maintain the historic form

Commissioner Rigoli seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

f. Evaluating parks and preparing a historic context study

Discussion was postponed to a future meeting.

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

Discussion was postponed to a future meeting.

4. Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings

- a. Next meeting is Thursday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Evaluating parks and preparing a historic context study
- 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.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.