

Additional detail requested by the Interim Budget Committee Section A on the Montana Heritage Commission
From Adam Schafer, Department of Administration

The Montana Heritage Commission that oversees Virginia and Nevada City, MT does not receive any general fund money and its operating budget is reliant on tourist related income and voluntary donations. All of MHC funding goes towards on-going deferred maintenance and operations of the 300 plus buildings and over 1 million artifacts we have under our stewardship. These buildings also serve 42 Montana businesses, and our current economic footprint is 74.4 million contributing to over 1200 jobs for Montana.

Attached is a pending contract with a preservation contractor and an example of park enhancement proposal that is a part of the current projects in process. MHC selects their contractors who have experience with preservation projects and who are approved through the State Historic Preservation office that have gone through the procurement process. The MCH Commission Member list is also attached.

Stonewall Hall (Montana's Territorial Capital Building from 1865-1875) This building is in private ownership and there has been discussion on the state acquiring this property based on the historical significance to Montana's History. NO state funding has been used on this project. There has been discussion to past and present Governor's and private owners and potential donors. There has been a verbal interest from private donor at the Montana History Foundation to pay for the costs associated with all repairs needed to restore building if the property would be acquired by the State of Montana. This decision will need to be decided by the Montana State Land board per MCA governing statutes. The Montana Heritage Commission will not be interested in this property unless a funding mechanism is in place to repair the existing structure and a business plan has been approved to cover ongoing maintenance costs in the future.

The top projects we hope to be able to begin this fiscal year are below and *cost estimates on repairs will be determined once condition assessments are completed and construction bids from contractors are submitted. The Montana Heritage Commission will decide on which projects to be completed based on funding available.*

The Nevada City Hotel- Structural Engineering and condition assessment has been ordered and construction to begin in early spring. This will serve 24 Hotel rooms for visiting tourists and add as a future revenue stream for future preservation costs.

New roof, structure, electrical and plumbing. **\$380k**

The Hickman Residence – Conditional assessment in process, structural engineering reports have been ordered, construction to begin in early spring. This will serve as a Stay in Montana's history vacation rental to absorb ongoing maintenance costs.

New Roof, foundation, electrical, plumbing **\$140k**

The Cogswell-Taylor (Sarah Bickford residence) – Condition assessment completed, structural engineering report ordered, construction to begin in early spring. This will serve as a Stay and Play in Montana's History Vacation Rental. Sarah Bickford was inducted into the Montana Historical Society Hall of Fame and is recognized as the 1st African American female business owner in Montana.

Foundation and roof completed, will need new electrical, plumbing and remodel of top and main floors. **\$160k.**

Virginia City -Nevada City Historic Site, Visitor enhancement with upgrades to bathroom facilities, fire suppression services, railroad train enhancement and park facilities to accommodate Montana's number one state owned tourist destination. In process, with completion date being completed in early April/May. These projects will enhance the visitor experience and make our destination safer to the public that will reduce liability costs to the Montana Taxpayer. **Estimates to complete \$370k.**