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STATE OF NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION

Stewart Indian School Preservation Project Update for the September 4, 2015 Nevada Indian Commission Board Meeting Submitted by: Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer I, Nevada Indian Commission

- In February 2015 the Nevada Indian Commission sent a letter of inquiry to the National Park Service which explained the reasons why the Stewart Indian School should be designated a National Historic Landmark. On June 4, 2015 the Commission received a letter from Elaine Jackson-Retondo of the National Park Service approving the Commission to move forward with the Stewart Indian School National Historic Landmark application. Also, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has submitted a National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant application to fund the hiring of a consultant to work on the National Historic Landmark application.
- The Nevada Indian Commission has a 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs (CCA) Grant in the amount of \$137,000 to fund the development of design and construction documents for Building #1 (future Stewart Indian School Cultural Center). On July 8, 2015 the Commission, State Public Works Division (SPWD) and H&K Architects and their Consultants met to discuss the project. At the meeting, an update was given on the 2011 Building #1 Schematic Design Manual and the budget for the project was discussed along with the project schedule. In addition, the Commission will be submitting an application for the FY 16-17 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Grant (formerly CCA), which is due December 4, 2015.
- The Commission worked with Charter Advertising to redesign the Stewart Indian School website (www.StewartIndianSchool.com). The new website has been launched and adjusts both smartphones and tablets.
- On March 27, 2015 the Nevada Indian Commission received funding in the amount of \$20,000 from the Trustees of the NV 150 Foundation. This funding will be used to interview Stewart Indian School Alumni and the audio recordings of these interviews will be transcribed, catalogued and archived at the Nevada Indian Commission, State Library and Archives and Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno. The Commission is working with the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs on the RFP process for this project.
- The Nevada Indian Commission is collaborating with the Stewart Facility Buildings and Grounds Division on the implementation of projects related to the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Plan. In keeping in line with the historic aspects of the Stewart Indian School, Buildings and Grounds is currently working on recreating the original stone fountain in front of Building #1 and replacing concrete throughout the facility. Also, Buildings and Grounds has \$175,000 reserved for FY16 for Stewart related landscape projects and \$200,000 reserved in FY17. A team including Martin Philips, Mike Johnson and Ron Bodnar from Buildings and Grounds, the Nevada Indian Commission and Rebecca Palmer from the SHPO will decide on best uses for the dedicated landscape funding.

- The Commission has received Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding for design and construction documents for Building #2 (Welcome and Information Center) and funding to develop a Master Plan for the Stewart Facility. The CIP funds are managed by the SPWD with input from the Commission, SHPO and State Lands. Also, with the passing of SB63 the Commission will be the coordinating agency for the project.
- The first Stewart Indian School Non-Profit Working Group meeting was held on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at the Nevada Indian Commission. This was the initial meeting to discuss the formation of a separate non-profit (fundraising arm) for the Stewart Indian School. At the meeting, steps for creating a non-profit were discussed and decisions were made on who would be part of the initial board. Board members will include Terri McBride, Kostan Lathouris, Kathleen Quasula and Neena Laxalt and Sherry Rupert will be an ex-officio member of the board. Also, the up-front costs to establish a non-profit were discussed. The costs are approximately \$2,300 which includes all filing fees and hiring a consultant to file the paperwork. Lastly, the group decided on next steps in the process which include deciding on a name for the non-profit, the creation of by-laws, a mission statement and filing paperwork with the Nevada Secretary of State's Office and the IRS.