



Contact Shari Cashman
Telephone 623.900.7761
Cell 602.708.1946
Email Shari@MDCavanland.com
Website www.MDCAVANLAND.com

RETAIL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED ON FORMER MOSQUE SITE

Jun 19th, 2016 · by Cecilia Chan

A 3-acre parcel in north Peoria once proposed for a mosque could give way to a retail shopping center.

The land is one of three parcels totaling 9 acres at the southeast corner of 83rd Avenue and Happy Valley Road that MDC Land Development wants to develop with up to 80,000 square feet of retail, restaurants and other low-intensity commercial uses.

Planning and Zoning Commission last week agreed to recommend the City Council approve a rezone and land use change to allow for the project dubbed 83 Marketplace.

"I've followed the progress of this project," said Daniel Ferranti who lives south of the site. "In general I express my personal support and most of my neighbors at The Meadows are positively in support."

A number of residents who attended two community meetings about the project earlier this year voiced support. They proposed a number of tenants for the commercial development, including restaurants, a hair salon, a Trader's Joe and a dry cleaners.

"I support this project as a family-friendly resource for the neighborhood," noted Mitch Erickson in a comment card submitted at the Feb. 9 community meeting.

Crystal Dykes echoed the sentiment.

"We've been in desperate need of more specialty shops and restaurants within walking, biking distance for a very long time," she wrote on her comment card.

Six people, however, opposed the project.



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