

Casino prospects uncertain in Reno's North Valleys

10:13 PM, Jul. 11, 2011 | Comments

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Recommend

A A

ADVERTISEMENT

Written by
BRIAN DUGGAN
bduggan@rgj.com

FILED UNDER
Local News

Related Links

Tourism: Both candidates for RSCVA post are long on experience

The developers of a planned development in Reno's North Valleys say the future of the project is still uncertain, especially the prospects of a potential casino in a parcel north of a Walmart that's under construction off Sky Vista Parkway.

About three dozen residents in the north-Reno community attended a town hall-style meeting Monday evening to listen to the developers present their plans for the 120-acre property, which could also include big-name, big-box retailers.

The project is being pushed by developer Carlos Vasquez and is backed by New York-based Hudson Real Estate. A handbook for the development was filed with the city in December, which includes a zoning change to allow non-restricted gaming.

That would require city council approval.

Members of the Washoe County Advisory Board questioned Vasquez and his business partners on Monday.

"Even the thought of gaming has me raising my radar," board member Francine Donshick said.

Vasquez said it's still too early to tell what will ultimately fill the parcel.

"It's just one of 52 uses we have in our handbook," he said. "In this market we want maximum flexibility."

Right now, the project is still in the planning phase and has yet to begin its official journey through the city's regulatory system, which would include a special-use permit if non-restricted gaming is ultimately a part of the application.

Board chairwoman Sarah Chvilicek asked how large a potential casino would be.

"That's something that the market would drive, I think you would see something along the lines of a Tamarack," said Vasquez, referring to the Tamarack Junction casino on South Virginia Street.

He added, "At this point in time we do not have an interested gaming party. We are putting as much energy into Kohl's."

A hotel is possible, too, but nothing more than four stories and 200 rooms, Vasquez said.

Residents spoke out against the potential gaming, including David Keele, who was wary of other gaming battles between developers and local communities, such as Spanish Springs.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Wanderlust festival



New dogs, cats at Reno shelter



Mug shots



Midtown art walk

MORE HEADLINES

[Former RSCVA chief Oppenheim joins Desert Research Institute](#)

[Introducing Octomom, the boxer](#)

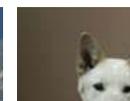
[Blog: State to get answers on status of Reno's financial future](#)

MOST POPULAR

1. [FBI: 'Credible lead' surfaces in D.B. Cooper case](#)
2. [Fact checker: Did Nevada Treasurer gamble away \\$50 million?](#)
3. [Former RSCVA chief Oppenheim joins Desert Research Institute](#)
4. [Reno Police seek public's help on string of drive-by shootings](#)
5. [Reno man arrested in fatal hit-and run Thursday](#)



Bain Street Fire reader photos



New at Reno shelter late July



Gym hosts special-needs cheerleading squad

MOST COMMENTED

- [Cain wins straw poll of conservatives in Denver](#) **30**
- [Former RSCVA chief Oppenheim joins Desert Research Institute](#) **34**
- [Forget spending cuts, we need jobs, money](#) **55**
- [Insurers must cover birth control with no copays](#) **24**
- [Romney opposes debt deal](#) **24**

ADVERTISEMENT

"If we take it out of the equation now, we won't have to deal with that down the road," Keele said.

Added Chvilicek, "It would be really nice if you withdrew the concept of non-restricted gaming. I think you would win the hearts and minds of the adjacent community."

The development could also include senior housing. Vasquez said a large portion of the land north of the development will be given to open space use, too.

Washoe County Commissioner Bonnie Weber told Vasquez she was upset she wasn't told about the project.

"It's not your community, it's their community," Weber said.

Vasquez said he's a native to the Reno area and said the community should support businesses that reinvest in themselves.

"We have competitive issues over the hill with Indian gaming," he said. "The businesses that are not being negatively affected are the ones who have invested in their businesses."

View Comments | Share your thoughts »

TOP VIDEO PICKS
selected by Taboola



Bain Street Fire
Jul 30, 2011



Truck full of trash hit by
Downeaster in Maine
Jul 11, 2011



Reno Rodeo honors 56
fallen Nevada veterans
Jun 27, 2011

[Routsis Hardy-Cooper](#)

Facing a Divorce, Custody Battle or Criminal Charges in Reno?

[RoutsisHardyCooper.com](#)

AdChoices

REAL DEALS



Flip, shop and save on specials from your

EVENT CALENDAR

August
1

[Matisyahu](#)

August
2

[TOCCATA - Hot August Pipes](#)

Search RGJ for events:

SUBSCRIBE!

FINDITNOW