

Weekly

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 opment projects.

G. Lamont Blackstone, principal for DLC, presented renderings of two possible layouts for an open-air, landscaped shopping center with a major full-service grocery chain store anchor, yet to be contracted.

Since August 2004, the established community has been without a full-service grocery store following the closure of three Vons stores last year, including the one on West Owens near H Street in the center of the neighborhood.

The new target site for a grocery store, retail shops and, perhaps, other mixed use development is a nearly 10-acre parcel on the southwest corner of Martin Luther King and Lake Mead Boulevards.

"I believe this is a good site—a very good site—for a supermarket," said Blackstone.

The council is slated to decide at its December 21 meeting if DLC will get an "exclusive negotiating agreement," an ENA, allowing it several months to proceed with planning, securing a major grocer participant and enlisting established retailers. Successful progress would lead to a final contract with the City of Las Vegas.

Sex

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"You can't base the actions of one person on a whole community," Badran said. "We don't condone, agree or participate in those actions. It makes us sick to see those types of things and would like these actions out of this community... we are part of this community."

Badran also rejected Hazam's charge that Arab Muslims don't like Blacks and are just using them for patronage.

"We deal with racism on a daily basis the same way [African-Americans and Latinos do]... we should all collectively battle instead of turning against each other."

Hazam called those Arab Muslims hypocrites who adorn their businesses with Christmas lights and sell pork and alcohol, though their religion forbids them from celebrating the Christian holiday or consuming pork and alcohol.

Badran agreed that it's an issue and said that the younger Arabs are moving away from alcohol. "It's nothing that we are proud of, but look at the fact that the majority of the Middle East-

Blackstone expressed optimism and cited several successful projects DLC joint ventured in San Diego and other metropolitan areas.

"Opportunities for business ownership," is one of the immediate advantages for residents in the area beyond the prospect of having a new grocery store nearby Blackstone added.

Over the past year, a local chapter community action group, ACORN, has spearheaded a drive to encourage the City of Las Vegas to release the land and issue a Request for Proposal. The organizers and area residents held rallies, more than three public meetings and credits the effort with the issuance of the RFP in September, which embodied group's mandate that any development on that land include a grocery store.

Weekly has been at the forefront of efforts to structure incentives, tax advantages and other concessions valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars to attract local or out-of-town development firms to work within the criteria to achieve a suitable project for that land, including the required grocery anchor of at least 40,000 square feet.

DLC's was one of only two proposals submitted. The

other respondent company was not disclosed. Several developers withdrew application when it became known that deep-discounter Wal-Mart was soon to break ground nearby at Rancho and Lake Mead, according to city officials.

In addition to the retail shopping development, Weekly introduced another top agenda item concerning the area: a prospective developer who is considering erecting an upscale condominium project on the property, which is considered part of the Enterprise Park zoned redevelopment area.

According to the presentation by Eddy Benoit Jr., senior vice president with Ambling Development Partners, that same corner is their target. Ambling is only in the early discussion phase with the city planners and the council, as Weekly told the attendees at the meeting, some of whom, at times, expressed resistance to the idea of building \$200,000+ condo units there.

"Let me clarify," he said, "An ENA agreement does not mean this is etched in stone, [a done deal]," Weekly explained.

Will Jones and Veronica Dunn-Jones, lead organizers representing ACORN decried the combining of the two key agenda items because "it became confusing," Ward said, referring to what he felt were unfortunate and "brutal," confrontational comments aimed at Weekly by some residents at the meeting who believed the

two projects were somehow interrelated. The two projects are mutually exclusive

Dunn-Jones said it was "unfair" to have the meeting on the urgent topic of the grocery store in conjunction with introduction of the housing development because it didn't allow enough time for attendees and representatives of ACORN to fully address the presenter and offer all their comments.

Both said Weekly didn't respond to written requests for a separate meeting on the grocery store topic, and he didn't communicate with them directly about the meeting, which was published. There were about 70 people in attendance.

The ACORN spokespersons said they didn't have the chance to bring as much community support to the grocery proposal discussion as they otherwise could have done. Ward and Dunn-Jones said they will continue to help from their position of expertise as grassroots community organizers, but they don't want to be ignored as the process moves forward.

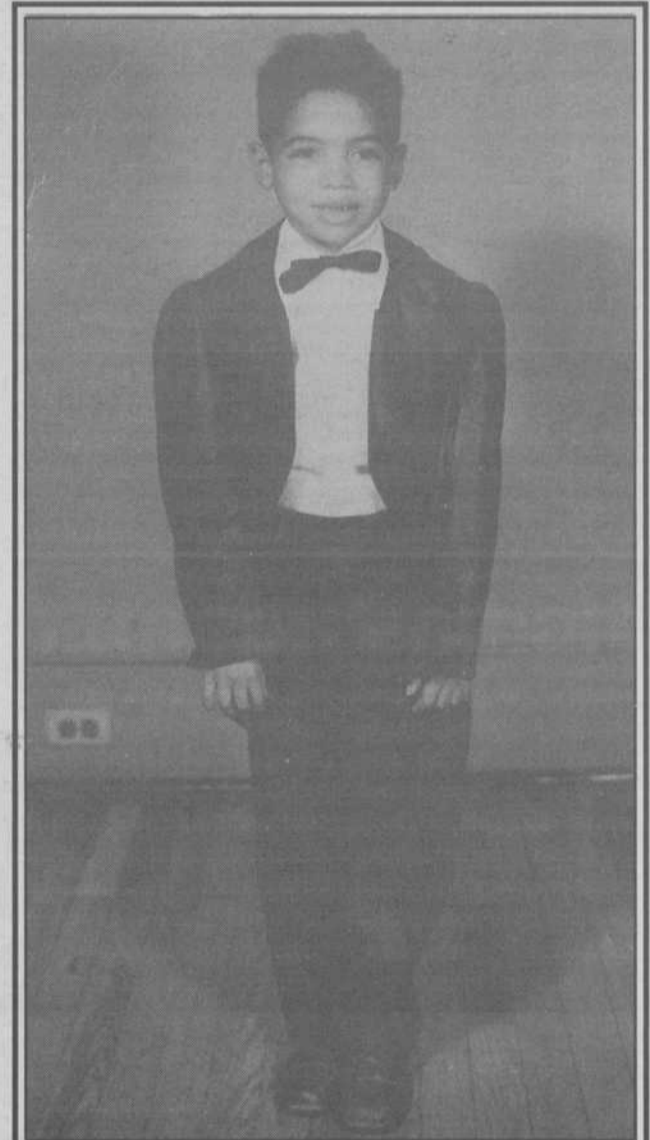
"We definitely will be talking with [the prospective developer] to see how we can get outreach to the community," Dunn-Jones, a resident of the Westside neighborhood, said. She is concerned about reducing the perception that the area is "blighted" and wants to decrease what she says is a sense of "hopelessness" that some area residents feel.

Regarding the concept of

the condominiums, Ward said Las Vegas can benefit from more rooftops in that area but not on that land because it is designated for business development. Several audience members' objected sharply on that same presumed basis.

Weekly sought to assure those concerned that no binding agreement on the proposed projects exists.

He said the discussion was brought to the public for the residents' initial input as preliminary discussions with representatives continue.



LIKE PULLING TEETH

We'll be blowing out the candles this Saturday for Dr. Owen W. Justice Jr., D.D.S. But we won't know how many. The Durham, N.C., native didn't give his age. Let's hope blowing out the candles is easier than a root canal.



Les Femmes Douze presented the Alpha Sigma Debutantes at its 41st Annual Debutante Cotillion recently held at the Texas Station. The cotillion was the culmination of activities involving community service, mentoring, etiquette and learning information about higher education. The program began in April for the young ladies who are currently seniors in the Clark County School District and are college bound in the fall. The organization will begin recruiting young ladies in March for the 42nd Debutante Cotillion. Young ladies interested in participating should call Lady Karen Williams at 702.799.3742.

1st Row Seated: (L-R) Fernaira Browne, Ashley Cobb, Danielle Grimble, Yvette Howard, Diamond Avery, Ciara Owens, Tanisha Sanders and Carena McCary. 2nd Row Standing: Brittaney Pearson, Parriz Lucas, Demetria Murphy, Amber Williams, A'Jha Fleming, Sheneice Snoddy, Monica Lawson, Scheherazade Pollins, Candace Monroe-Moreno, Ashlee Gibbs, Chantal Anderson, Ayreol Eppenger, Jan'ia Braggs and Cristina Dawson.