

Event center could be built near Grace Lutheran

BY JOURNAL STAFF

POCATELLO — The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing tonight regarding a request to rezone 8.69 acres near Grace Lutheran Church — a first step in an effort to develop a Pocatello-Chubbuck Auditorium District events center, according to the meeting agenda.

The Planning and Zoning Commission's meeting will take place in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, located at 911 N. Seventh Avenue in Pocatello, at 6:30 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church is making the request to rezone, by contract agreement, the undeveloped property located west of Baldy Avenue and

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the applicant, and that is included in the staff report.

The proposed facility would not only be visible from the interstate, but would be within walking distance of 700 hotel rooms and seven restaurants.

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east of Interstate 15 from Residential Commercial Professional to Commercial General, according to the staff report prepared for the meeting.

The 40,620-square-foot event center that would seat up to 1,600 people would be leased by the Pocatello-Chubbuck Auditorium District and would be used for athletic events, conventions, concerts, exhibits and other community activities, according to the report.

The purpose of the Pocatello-Chubbuck Auditorium District formed in 1999 is to operate a facility for community and regional events. And the board is at the point of committing to such a center at the proposed location, according to information provided by

“The Commercial General (CG) zoning requested by the applicant is essentially a ‘conditional’ commercial zoning for the specified ‘Major Event Entertainment’ (Events Center) project,” according to the staff report, which adds that the existing Residential Commercial Professional zone development standards would stay in place. “Therefore, the zoning request would allow a currently undeveloped property to be developed and provide a facility beneficial to the community.”

Following Tuesday’s hearing, the Planning and Zoning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council regarding Grace Lutheran’s request.