



This drawing shows the front of the planned Dillard's store facing the parking lots. There is a similar, smaller, arched entrance at the north end of the building.

12/8/06

Dillard's store OK'd

Staff Reports

Another major addition to a planned shopping center at the northeast corner of Florence Boulevard and Interstate 10 is on the way.

The Casa Grande Planning and Zoning Commission, meeting Thursday night, unanimously approved a major site plan for a 98,060-square-foot Dillard's department store.

Dillard's will join the already-approved Kohl's, Target and J.C. Penney department stores and a 14-screen Harkins theater.

Also approved Thursday night were another CVS pharmacy, a major motel complex on Florence Boulevard, a medical and business office complex and a 10-unit industrial park.

The shopping center, known as The Promenade at Casa Grande, is being built by Westcor, WDP Partners and The Pederson Group.

"We took a little bit of abuse last month (at the commission meeting) for not having broken ground," Gary Pederson, vice president of The Pederson Group, said, "but I want the record to reflect that we are moving dirt and we've got a pretty big site going on out there and we're all pleased about that."

"It's an incredible, complex puzzle to put together to bring the number of major national tenants in one piece. We've had four pieces of the puzzle with the approval of Target, Kohl's, Harkins and Penney's, and we're very pleased to present the fifth and final major anchor tonight with Dillard's."

The proposed Dillard's, to be next to Penney's, is designed to blend in with the other stores, but will have its distinct architecture, including an arched main entry and a smaller arched side entrance.

"I would really like to compliment

— Dillard's, Page 20

Dillard's

Continued from Page 1

the architect for making the changes to the building that we were inquiring about," Planning and Development Director Rick Miller said. "I think they have done some really nice features on this building that you don't see on some of the other Dillard's big-box stores, and we really would like to compliment them. I think it will be a real enhancement to the other buildings, especially that entryway."

Commission member Jim Klein said the architect was to be congratulated.

"This building is very, very attractive," he said. "I don't know who or how you came up with that, but it sets it apart with that (arched) entrance in there. It's very distinctive and yet it doesn't jump out at you. It's a beautiful rendition."

The last report from the city was that the developers are on a fast track to have the first buildings up by mid-2007, allowing for stocking and opening shortly thereafter.

The other approvals Thursday night include:

- A complex for Legacy Suites Extended Stay, a 480-unit motel to be built on 8 acres at Florence Boulevard just west of the Comfort Inn.

The complex, which could be opened within six months from issuance of final permits, is expected to have up to 20 employees, all hired locally, the commission was told. The complex will have three 120-unit buildings and two 60-unit ones, a reception office, manager's unit and maintenance/laundry facility.

- A second CVS pharmacy, 11,945 square feet, to be built on 1.59 acres at the northwest corner of Peart and Kortsen roads.

No decision has been made by CVS about what will be done with the former Osco drug store at Florence Boulevard and Peart Road, closed when CVS bought Osco, the commission was told. CVS has a store across the street from the former Osco.

- A 35,991-square-foot medical and business office complex, Casa Grande Professional Village, broken into 17 office condominium units, at the southeast corner of Peart and Kortsen roads.

- A 10-lot industrial park on 21 acres south of the southeast corner of Thornton Road and Cottonwood Lane.

- A new Circle K, with gasoline station, at the southeast corner of Pinal Avenue and Cottonwood Lane, with construction expected to begin by May.

Other items for the commission include:

- Recommending approval of a major amendment to the planned area development to consolidate property and allow for low-, medium- and high-density residential, commercial, office/business park and regional commercial uses at the Florence/I-10 shopping center.

- Approval of a preliminary plat request for 1,656 lots in Phase 2 of The Legends at the northwest corner of Midway and Clayton roads.

- Hearing Miller present a plaque to commission member David Hernandez, honoring his six years on the board.