

## Bringing back Lincoln Plaza

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A rendering submitted for consideration for development at the site of the long-vacant Lincoln Plaza property in Oklahoma City. (Courtesy Photo)

OKLAHOMA CITY – Preliminary plans for the long-vacant Lincoln Plaza complex recently submitted to the city show the old hotel repurposed as a student housing development, but the renderings are only one of several possibilities for the property, developer Dick Tanenbaum said.

“This is just showing what can be done – there are maybe seven or eight different directions we could go,” Tanenbaum said.

Documents filed with the Oklahoma City Planning Department show the distinctive crescent-shaped hotel transformed into student housing units. The plans also include some type of food service in what

was once the hotel restaurant, a lake, at least two pools and several outdoor tennis and basketball courts. It was unclear from the submitted documents how many units of housing were part of the proposal.

Developer Gardner Tanenbaum Group filed the plans as part of an effort to clean up the outdated zoning for the 24-acre property near the Oklahoma Capitol, and they don’t represent the final vision for the old hotel, Tanenbaum said.

“When we go before the Planning Commission, we have to show them something,” he said.

Tanenbaum said he planned to put the Lincoln Plaza project on the back burner until sometime next year.

The Oklahoma City Planning Commission was slated to consider the plans at its next meeting on Thursday, but asked for a continuance until February on Monday afternoon, said J.J. Chambless, a planner for Oklahoma City.

Gardner Tanenbaum had submitted plans to use the old hotel rooms for student housing for the nearby University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and convert some of the convention center rooms into additional housing units, Chambless said.

“I expect them to make a lot of changes before coming back in February,” he said.

Built in 1967, the Lincoln Plaza complex at 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd. includes a three-story hotel, seven-story convention center and a single-story restaurant.

Once a glamorous meeting place for politicians and executives, the complex has changed hands several times over the past 20 years and has been closed for more than a decade.

Oklahoma City developers Tom Parrish and David Aduddell purchased the property for \$2.025 million in 2006, with plans to bring the closed hotel back to its former glory, but the project never moved forward. The developers handed the property back to the bank in June 2010, according to property records.