

# Board 3 approves catering hall for center to counsel retarded

With none of the controversy that marked the other two community boards' decisions on the same question, Community Board 3 last night approved a proposal by the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook to operate a therapy, counseling and service center for the retarded in a portion of the Nelson Terrace, Great Kills.

The board voted overwhelmingly to approve the motion after it was announced that Thomas Coughlin, commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, agreed the center will not serve more than 15 Willowbrook patients with no home community.

In its initial proposal, the developmental center had sought to serve up to 65 persons who have no community

where they could be returned as Willowbrook is depopulated from its current 1,600 to 250 Island residents.

The proposed center will also serve 50 people with current family ties on the Island and 85 clients who have already been relocated are receiving care in homes.

The center, which will take up no more than 6,000 of the 20,000 square feet of the Great Kills catering hall, will have 17 staff members, including a supervising social worker, a psychologist, a community mental health nurse, a speech and hearing therapist, a senior recreational therapist, five social workers, five clerks, an administrator and a supervisor.

Charles Korner, a Willowbrook staffer

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who will head the proposed service center, has said the program will provide case management for each client placed in the community and small group sessions for more independent clients who are learning basic homemaking and money management skills.

Korner has also said only four clients a day would appear for therapy in the office. He added this was a monthly average and could rise up to eight clients each day.

He has said that 50 percent of the clients would not be able to travel to the center, while the other half would use the center only once a month. Those homebound patients will be treated by case workers based at the Great Kills center.

In other matters, Msgr. Edward Mitty, executive director of the trustees of St. Patrick's Cathedral, discussed the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York's plan to develop 127 acres of Mount Loretto property into a cemetery.

Msgr. Mitty said the cemetery will be bounded by Bedell St., Hylan Blvd. and Sharott Ave. and development will get underway in the summer of 1979.

He said 12.5 acres will be developed at first at a maximum of 1,000 graves per acre. Msgr. Mitty said the cemetery would be for Catholics and relatives of Catholics.

A second presentation was made by Sandra Hellickson, area manager for Gateway National Park on Staten Island, who discussed the park's proposed expansion of facilities on the Island.

She stressed that park officials welcome suggestions on the proper use of the parks at New Dorp and Great Kills and said three months had been provided for public suggestions to be received

and incorporated in the park's final plan.

Finally, the board passed a second motion supporting members of the South Shore Golf Club and the Staten Island Golf Association who are seeking to "preserve the integrity of the South Shore Golf Course as it is now being played."

The motion resulted from requests by members, who pointed out that 1.3 acres of the 75-acre course belong to private property owners and not the city. They seek to insure this portion of the course is recovered by the city from the private owners.

Community board chairman Frank Beraud announced that Mayor Koch will conduct a town hall session May 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at Monsignor Farrell High School in Oakwood and urged community residents to attend.

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