

Bellamy takes idea for full-time head of MTA to Board 1

By A. STANLEY ALLISON

A busy agenda for Community Board 1 at its meeting last night in St. Roch's School, Port Richmond, was highlighted by a visit from City Council President Carol Bellamy.

Miss Bellamy was asked a number of questions by board members, some of which were of particular concern to Staten Island.

The board's agenda included passing four resolutions and six motions on issues such as the completion of Lawrence C. Thompson Park, West Brighton, and a list of the first bus shelters that will be constructed in the Board 1 area.

Miss Bellamy, after explaining the decision-making process in the city and the role of the City Council president, "which is not much of a role," she said, addressed issues such as contracting services out to private firms that are traditionally handled by municipal agencies.

"I like to think it's not union busting," Miss Bellamy said of contracting a private firm to collect garbage as a pilot project.

"We're struggling with how to deliver services," in the city, she said, adding that on an experimental basis, hiring a private firm to collect garbage "gives you something to measure performance against."

Miss Bellamy also called for a full-time chief operating officer in the Metropolitan Transit Authority, noting that its chairman, Harold Fisher "is only a part-time executive for the MTA.

"We are in desperate need of a full-time chief operating officer and there is a search going on now," Miss Bellamy said.

She added that the overall MTA system "is in very bad shape," pointing out that there is an excess of separate authorities within the MTA.

"It doesn't make any sense," she said, to have an authority to administer Manhattan and Bronx buses in addition to a separate body for buses in Brooklyn or Queens.

In response to a charge that the allocation of police services was not adequate because there are few arrests of pimps by policemen, Miss Bellamy said she was not aware of that.

"I'm not sure that's true," she said, "but you are looking at someone who would arrest every john on the street and every pimp."

She added that she would investigate police assignments for dealing with prostitution as compared to violent crimes.

"If I take a look and see how difficult it is to convict a pimp and see that police arrest pimps, go to court and the pimp goes free," because the prostitute refuses to testify against him, "then I would choose to not spend the money on having a cop in court, but on the street to try to deal with violent crimes," she said.

Because of a previous engagement, Miss Bellamy was forced to cut her discussion with the board short.

"I'll come back. I hope you'll invite me back," she said.

Motions passed by the board included:

Assigning the completion of Lawrence C. Thompson Park, West Brighton, its "highest priority."

Joshua Prince, commander of Lawrence C. Thompson Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, asked that the board assign the park's completion a high priority, noting that he had been informed that although the bids received for construction of the park have been above the \$560,000 set aside, additional funds might be allocated if the board went on record requesting them.

Norman Berger, district manager for the board, stated that "it is not unusual" for bids to be higher than the money set aside for projects.

He added that the Park Department has asked for more bids, which will be opened in April, to be submitted.

In the event the new bids are also too high, Berger said there could be a "budget modification to raise the figure, or modify the plans for the park, reducing some things in the park. It's all contingent on the new bids," he said.

Philip Kaplan said, however, "We should spare no effort to see we are not jim-flammed and be sure it's not used as an excuse again," that the bids are too high, resulting in further delay of the park's construction.

The board's motion was amended to state that, in the event the new bids are higher than \$560,000, the funds be raised to correspond with the lowest bid.

A request for additional funds to raise the limit of Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) job slots for the summer youth job program on the Island.

"The money is there," Thomas LaManna, board chairman said. "The question is how we slice up the pie."

Support of a proposal by the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, to lease office space in Port Richmond where state employees would counsel former adult residents of the center.

The board also passed resolutions supporting a list of 27 bus shelters, which will be the first to be constructed in the North Shore area.

The bus shelter sites include Egbert Square and Forest Ave., Graniteville; Lafayette Ave. and Cassidy Pl., New Brighton; both sides of Bay St. and Vanderbilt Ave., Clifton; Hylan Blvd., Rosebank, next to Labetti VFW Hall, and Victory Blvd. and Clove Rd., Sunnyside, in the direction of the St. George ferry terminal.

A resolution was also passed, which "officially deplores the Staten Island Reception Center's failure to honor agreement it made with the St. George-Tompkinsville area committee regarding the renovation of a storefront property at 206 Bay St., Tompkinsville."

Prior to relocating its offices to the Bay St. address, the Staten Island Reception Center reportedly said it would work with the area committee on the design plans of the renovation.

According to Daniel Icolari, chairman of the committee, the center ignored the committee's recommendations.

It was announced that there will be a public hearing March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Morris Intermediate School, 445 Castleton Ave., Brighton Heights, on the first phase of the Jersey St. urban renewal designation.

Representatives of the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development and Department of City Planning are scheduled to attend the hearing.

Representatives for Councilwoman Mary Codd, Councilman Anthony Giacobbe, State Sen. John J. Marchi and Borough President Gaeta attended the meeting.