

Group set to discuss 5 uses for SIDC land

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Five concepts about the future use of the Staten Island Developmental Center campus, ideas ranging from light industrial use to setting property aside for the Greenbelt, were highlighted in a recent memo distributed to members of an advisory council on the issue.

The council will meet at 4 p.m. tomorrow to begin sorting out proposals.

Among the ideas to be discussed are using the land for housing; setting aside large portions of it for the Greenbelt; rehabilitation of existing buildings for office space; renovating the campus for the consolidation of College of Staten Island, and using the land for light industrial

and/or commercial use.

The concepts were listed in a memo by Commissioner John C. Egan of the state General Services Office, who chairs the advisory committee. Missing from Egan's list was using part of the campus for recreational facilities, although he said other ideas could be introduced tomorrow.

While noting that all concepts for using the land are open to discussion, Egan's memo noted that light industrial-commercial use "has not been strongly favored ... However, it has it has suggested and it should be discussed and, if not agreed to, then at least finally discarded."

The memo was more positive about the using the property for office space, "although not for exclusive use ... this could be an attractive alternative," the memo said, "since it would be 'clean' use of the area and might provide employment for people already living on Staten Island."

The memo was neutral about the other three ideas.

Egan said in the memo he hopes to use tomorrow's meeting to "establish parameters and/or prohibitions governing use (of the land), then inviting requests for proposals from selected private developers. This might necessitate use of an outside consultant to provide the required expertise."

Moreover, Egan said, he would like the council to explore use of the campus by other state agencies.

At issue are about 300 acres of land and more than 40 buildings to be vacated by the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC), which is scheduled to close by the end of 1987.

The state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, which operates SIDC, is planning to retain about 90 acres of the 382-acre campus for the proposed Richmond Complex, which would provide about 150 community beds for Staten Island's mentally retarded.

Egan's office is responsible for disposing of the remaining property. Aiding in that task is the 12-member advisory council, comprised of state officials and local representatives. The council, which met for the first time in April, is expected to have a preliminary report by September.

Egan's memo noted that proposals under consideration are "very preliminary" and "each will require careful examination in the light of community needs and desires and, most importantly, with respect to their potential impact upon the ongoing programs of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities."

Egan said that advisory council members could bring to tomorrow's meeting persons or groups who wish to present information concerning uses of the land.