

Panel hears proposals for SIDC property

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Nine proposals on future use of the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) property were discussed yesterday by the SIDC Advisory Council, but details were sketchy and the council chairman stressed that the group is still at a "very preliminary" stage.

"We know there are a lot of things wrong with the ideas we're coming up with here, but there are also a lot of things right," said Commissioner John Egan of the state General Services Office. "Right now, we want to concentrate on the positive. Our object is to get as much on the table as possible."

But Egan said the idea of transferring part or all of the property to another state agency has been discarded. "Any agency that has expressed an interest in the land has not been accepted," Egan said. He was ambiguous on whether that ruled out relocating state agencies from the World Trade Center to buildings at SIDC.

The property is currently un-

der control of the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), which operates the SIDC. The developmental center is scheduled to be closed by the end of 1987, vacating about 300 acres and more than 40 buildings.

The advisory council, which is comprised of four state officials and nine local representatives, was formed to make recommendations on the disposition of the vacated property. A draft report is expected by September and a final report by December.

Yesterday was the council's second meeting, and the purpose was to begin listing proposals. Some of the nine ideas presented received only cursory mention.

One of the more specific proposals came from Young Israel of Staten Island, which is asking for 16 acres of the property to build 102 units of senior citizen housing, a group home for the mentally retarded and a neighborhood park. The development could also include a shelter for the homeless, Rabbi Jay Marcus said.

The congregation is made up

of about 600 families in the area adjoining the eastern border of SIDC. The property sought by the congregation is located across the street from the temple on Forest Hill Road, north of the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation.

That same site, as well as Corson's Brook Woods, has been earmarked by the City Planning Department and Parks Department as a natural preserve for inclusion in the Greenbelt.

In addition, the agencies said they wanted about 95 acres of the property along the western border of the campus to expand Willowbrook Park. Some of the area already contains ballfields and is used frequently by the community.

Marilyn Mammano, director of the Staten Island office of City Planning, said she realized that some of the land included in the proposal — specifically Corson's Brook Woods — is not part of the property being vacated. That land is being retained by OMRDD, which hopes to build group homes on part of the property.