

grams for the handicapped will be served.

Jackie Cowan, vice president of the civic association, raised questions about the sale of 18 acres of the Ocean Breeze land to Staten Island Hospital last year for 62 cents a square foot. The state paid more than 80 cents a square foot for the property in the 1960s, she said, and it should be worth as much as \$10 to \$12 a foot now.

Lamberti responded that, as a member of the hospital's board of directors, he was instrumental in negotiating that sale. "This is a not-for-profit facility whose purpose is to aid the community," he said.

Lamberti also revealed that he and the hospital's executive director, Barry T. Zeman, have discussed the possibility of acquiring more property there for the hospital to use as a "land bank" in the event of future development.

While the hospital continues to support establishing the combined campus at Ocean Breeze, Lamberti said, "if that does not occur, if there is already a decision to go to Willowbrook, he

(Zeman) wants as much property as possible for a land bank."

Hospital spokesman Michael Cala confirmed yesterday that Lamberti and Zeman had spoken about the matter, and said Zeman envisions leaving the land undeveloped for 20 years or longer in the event it may be useful "to meet contingencies in the short- and long-term needs of the community."

Civic association members left the meeting still insistent that the college should be made to reconsider the Ocean Breeze property, but indicating they were satisfied with Lamberti's responses and approach to the issue.

"I thought he was honest, that he doesn't pull punches," Careccia said, "but I still think the college can and should go there. If it doesn't at least we will have put up a good fight."

Also representing the civic group at the meeting were John Cappotosto and Eileen Barbley, the organization's secretary. Joining Lamberti were Borough Hall assistants Robert Connelly, Thomas Lamanna and Aldo Benedetto.

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