



ADVANCE PHOTO/TONY CARANNANTE

College faculty member Gladys C. Meyer speaks while Ronald L. Lane of the State Dormitory Authority listens at the College of Staten Island public hearing.

# Not many attend session on CSI move

## Aide says BP office never notified

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State officials waited four hours for people to attend their public hearing on the proposed College of Staten Island Willowbrook campus yesterday. In the end, however, state and college officials outnumbered the speakers.

The hearing focused on the draft of an environmental impact statement concerning CSI's plan to consolidate on the grounds of the soon-to-be-closed Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC).

About 10 people attended the hearing in addition to the dozen or so people connected to the project in an official capacity. All the speakers supported the project, although Richard Buegler of the Protectors of the Pine Oak Woods

said he was concerned about one aspect of the proposed construction because it involves the destruction of a small woodland area.

Most, however, had only praise for the proposed consolidation.

The Willowbrook land "provides an ideal setting for a college campus," said Louis Cenci, trustee with the City University of New York, to which CSI belongs. It will give CSI the space it needs for its more than 10,000 students who now crowd the Sunnyside and St. George campuses, he said.

Unifying the campus will allow students to select courses with more ease, improve their access to the school's programs and facilities, provide students with the most up-to-date facilities and give Islanders a college in a more

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convenient location, said June Olsen, a member of the nursing faculty.

It also will cut the college's administrative costs. The school must now duplicate many services including libraries, cafeterias, registrar's offices and admissions offices, she said.

"Willowbrook has left so many with sad memories," Ms. Olsen said referring to the late 1960s and early 1970s when hundreds of patients were living in squalid conditions in what was then the Willowbrook State School. CSI's relocating there will create happy memories, she said, "and it's about time."

The state Dormitory Authority, the lead agency in the massive \$220 million construction project, held the public hearing in the Williamson Theater on the Sunnyside campus.

Once the Dormitory Authority has accepted the EIS, that agency can then sell bonds to finance CSI's construction, said Kenneth L. Ayers, the authority's assistant counsel.

In the middle of the hearing, Thomas LaManna, an aide to Borough President Ralph J. Lamberti, arrived with a statement from Lamberti that asked the Dormitory Authority to hold an-

other hearing.

Lamberti's statement said his office was not notified of yesterday's meeting and did not have enough time to study the EIS. The statement also questions the public hearing notification procedures.

"The issues raised in the EIS are of importance and deserve measured response and full consideration, something that could not be done in the short period of time offered by the state Dormitory Authority at today's hearing," the statement said.

LaManna, however, told the Dormitory Authority officials attending the meeting that Lamberti's office had received a copy of the EIS. Those same authority officials then said Lamberti's office must have been notified because the Sept. 5 cover letter attached to the EIS included the date and time of the public hearing.

Furthermore the package was either mailed by "return receipt requested" or hand-delivered, said Ronald L. Lane, chief of engineering services with the Dormitory Authority. That means someone had to sign for the package, he said.

State law provides a schedule for notification requirements. Ayers said, which was followed in the case of this hearing. He suggested that any agency with complaints about this procedure should notify the state Legislature.

The Dormitory Authority did, however, make a mistake in its notification ads in five city papers including the Advance. The notices said the hearing was at the St. George campus. Only one person showed up there, and he later arrived at and spoke during the hearing.

Other speakers at yesterday's

hearing included CSI President Edmond L. Volpe; Community Board 2 member Phil Scampas; Gladys C. Johnson, president of the CSI Alumni Association, and faculty members Gladys C. Meyer, Joseph Barresi and Fred

Naider.

Copies of the draft EIS are available for reading at CSI and at Community Boards 1 and 2. Written comments can be sent to Lane's attention at the Dormitory Authority in Elmsmere until Oct. 7.