

# Sports facilities asked for center for disabled

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A local planning group may ask the state to build a 75-meter pool, outdoor sports facilities, meeting rooms and an indoor gymnasium at the new Richmond Complex for the Developmentally Disabled.

Members of the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council (SIRRDC), at their monthly meeting yesterday, discussed a number of topics, including preliminary recommendations for the now under-construction Richmond Complex on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC).

The Richmond Complex Task Force, a council sub-committee, recommended to the council that the state build outdoor recreation areas, including a day camp, track and softball fields, an indoor gym, conference rooms, a first aid station, a fitness center, an information service area for Social Security, Medicaid and other organizations, a refreshment area, and music and dance facilities, according to Maureen Brennick, council vice-chairman.

The state has already approved plans for multi-purpose rooms at the complex. In addition, the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) has set aside funds for the design of a 50-foot pool.

Council representatives, however, recently looked at pools in other city facilities and are now considering asking for a 75-meter

pool, said Diane Buglioli, council chairman.

Seventy-five meters is required for swimming competitions, such as the Special Olympics, Ms. Buglioli said, adding that a 50-foot pool is also too small for ambulatory, higher-skilled clients. Staten Island now has no swimming facilities designed for developmentally disabled people.

The SIRRDC is responsible for the comprehensive planning of all services for the developmentally disabled on Staten Island. Its recommendations are forwarded to OMRDD, which makes the final decision.

The Richmond Complex Task Force began in 1984 when the closing of the Staten Island Development Center "became imminent," said Ms. Buglioli. The task force planted the seeds for the idea of a resource center on the SIDC grounds. Originally, the Richmond Complex was simply going to be a residential community, she said.

Programming for the Richmond Resource Center is still under discussion, Ms. Buglioli said, but it may include day programs for low-incident populations such as mentally retarded people with vision or hearing problems.

The task force's recommendations will be reviewed by the council's executive committee and then brought to the full council membership before they are forwarded to the OMRDD, Ms. Buglioli said.