

She told the group that Erika is an asset to the community and has volunteered at the South Shore YMCA and the CYO program at Mount Loretto.

Erika, who is deaf, is excited about the home because it is near St. Charles R.C. Church, which has mass in sign language.

"Sometimes it is fear of the unknown that leads them to oppose the homes," Ms. Balk said before the meeting.

Whether residents supported or rejected UCP proposals, they have little influence on the decision.

According to the Community Residence Site Selection Law — also known as the Padavan Law — community boards have three options when faced with a proposed site for a community residence for the developmentally disabled: Accept the site, suggest an alternative, or object to the site on the grounds the neighborhood is already saturated with similar residences. In this case, similar residences means other community residences for the developmentally disabled.

The next step is the full board's vote on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in PS 25 on the grounds of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, Mount Loretto, Pleasant Plains.

This vote is merely advisory and the full board is likely to support the projects. If the board rejects a site, the state would hold a hearing on the board's objections but would ultimately have the power to approve the site.



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Officials listen during the South Shore meeting on community residences. From left are Dominick Spada, a member of the Community Board 3 Human Resources Committee; William D'Ambrosio, the committee's chairman; and John Antoniello, chairman of Community Board 3.