

Board 3 OKs 1 home site, nixes another

Voting follows sharp exchanges with audience

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Community Board 3 last night was divided over the issue of placing group homes for the developmentally disabled in residential neighborhoods as they voted on two new sites during a full board meeting at Staten Island University Hospital, Princes Bay.

The board approved the site at 62 Justin Ave., Bay Terrace, with 20 members in favor, 15 opposing and two abstaining. They voted against the site at 524 Lamoka Ave., Eltingville, with eight members voting in favor, 25 opposing and four abstaining.

Some board members said they were opposed in general to the siting of homes in residential areas, while others said they were concerned that not enough space was available at the Lamoka Avenue site for the 10 to 12 clients and four staffers who would be placed there.

Concern had been raised by both the board and community residents over the fact that the Lamoka Avenue site, run by the Brooklyn-based Independent Living Association (ILA), might house clients from boroughs other than Staten Island.

District manager Dorothy Fitzpatrick said Robert Witkowsky, director of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office (SIDDSO), sent a letter to board Offices in Great Kills yesterday afternoon stating that he directed ILA to develop the site for community clients. The board also received word that ILA would be opening a Staten Island office to screen and hire employees for its homes in this borough.

She also said there currently are 215 Staten Islanders on a SIDDSO waiting list for placement in group homes.

During the voting, there were numerous verbal exchanges between community board members and angry residents in the audience. Most of the residents were there to oppose the Lamoka Avenue site. Very few had turned out to oppose the Justin Avenue site.

Following the vote, human re-

sources committee chairman Bruce Eckhouse proposed that the board invite the not-for-profit agencies like ILA and SIDDSO to conduct seminars with the board on the workings of group homes. "Ignorance is the problem here. If we take a greater interest in what we vote on, we'll be a better board for it," said chairman Alfred Brumme.

A brief award ceremony was held during last night's meeting for four South Shore schoolchildren who won the Community Board 3-sponsored poster/essay contest titled, "How Can Students Volunteer to Help Their Community?"

Robert Bolker of Paulo Intermediate, Lisa Castellani of PS 55, Justine Sweeney of PS 1, and Andrea Tarnosky of Totten Intermediate were presented with \$50 savings bond certificates from John Brady, Staten Island Savings Bank executive vice president. The bank had donated the certificates.

Public service committee chairman Dennis Sarlo announced that a public hearing on the Fresh Kills landfill would be held at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 in the College of Staten Island, St. George. He urged all board members and residents to attend.

Parks committee chairman Pe-

ter Coleman said the City Planning Commission would be holding a meeting tonight at 6 p.m. in Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Livingston, on comprehensive planning for the city's waterways. He said anyone interested in public access to Staten Island's waterfront should attend the meeting.

The board unanimously passed a motion to go along with Borough President Guy V. Molinari's request that Project Hospitality's \$1.194 million contract with the city to provide scatter site housing for people with AIDS be laid over since it allows the agency to bypass the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure.