

last Tuesday's meeting that the group home would lower the property values of area homes, Ms. McMahon said, "I'm a homeowner myself. Your home cannot lose its value by these people living there... these people are the most lovable people you'll ever meet."

Jay Correia, vice president of the board that manages the Armstrong Gardens Condominiums, said, "I represent the minority opinion. We share the same concerns as the other residents, but we're willing to give these people a chance in our community."

One area resident, Ursula Melendy, spoke against the home and presented a petition with more than 95 signatures opposing the facility.

"We're worried about the

state's ability to run the home," she said.

The facility must be approved through a site selection process in which Community Board 3 is required to vote on the issue according to the Padavan Law. The law provides for the placement of group homes for the developmentally disabled in residential areas. Over-saturation of similar homes in the area is the only criterion for voting down a home.

Board 3 voted in favor of the home with one stipulation: that a certified statement be presented to the board from the OMRDD saying that if the house is no longer a group home for the developmentally disabled it must go back on the real estate market, rather than be used by the state for another purpose.

In other business, Eltingville residents came to protest a city proposal to open up King Street, which is currently a dead-end. As part of the completion of a Department of Environmental Protection sewer project, the city Department of Transportation, Emergency Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and city Sanitation Department have proposed to open up the dead-end once the street is paved, according to Thomas M. LaGuidice, traffic and transportation committee chairman. He said Board 3 will not take a stand on the issue.

King Street resident Carmella Catiagno presented the board with a petition signed by more than 200 people opposed to opening the dead-end street.

"We never had a problem getting emergency vehicles down the street," she said. She and other speakers also contended that if the street were opened it would become a raceway for motorists endangering area children.

Also at last night's meeting, Board 3 members approved a zoning change for a portion of Tottenham from an R 3-2 zone — which allows for the construction of one- and two-family detached and semi-attached homes and townhouses — to an R 3-A zone, which prohibits the development of townhouses and semi-attached homes.

Board 3 members also approved a list of 40 capital and 25 expense items to be funded by the city. Top priorities include three new public elementary schools for the South Shore, construction of ball fields and road widening projects.

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