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Developer backed for state hospital site

The Boston Globe

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A community panel has recommended that a development group that includes Jerry Rappaport Jr., whose family built the high-rises of Boston's West End, be selected to turn a huge state-owned swath of land in Mattapan into housing. The recommendation to give the contract to Lena Park Community Development Corp. will be forwarded to the state Division of Capital Asset Management, which is expected to make a final decision "in the coming weeks," according to DCAM spokesman Kevin Flanigan. The sprawling 175-acre plot of land at the former Boston State Hospital has been dormant for 23 years.



"We think we have addressed all the issues," said Kirk Sykes, project partner for the Lena Park-led proposal. "The process has been comprehensive and the community's response to our proposal is really a mandate. I think the community has spoken."

The \$90 million Olmsted Green plan proposed by Lena Park calls for 300 condominiums and apartments to be built alongside parks, a jobs-training center, and a bubble enclosure that would house sports fields and tennis courts. A majority of the condominiums would be targeted for less affluent area applicants, selling for under \$275,000.

The other proposal that was reviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee was put forward by Stony Brook LLC, and has financial backing from the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, a group of about 95 religious institutions looking to build affordable housing throughout the city. The Mattapan Community Development Corporation is also partnered with Stony Brook LLC.

BRENDAN MCCARTHY

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