

Planning board group to zero in on Davids Is.

The Davids Island controversy has been taken up by a new Community Planning Board 10 subcommittee.

The subcommittee was appointed at the Nov. 29 meeting of the board's Housing and Zoning Committee.

Jorge Santiago of Co-op City, a member of the Co-op City Nature/Garden Club but who was representing the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, had urged the Planning Board to take an active part in opposing the multi-million development on the island, which is located in Long Island Sound off of New Rochelle and Glen Island in Westchester. But, Santiago pointed out, the island is only 400 yards from Pelham Bay Park and its Orchard Beach. Santiago spoke at an executive meeting the board, chaired by Joseph Miller of Co-op City, on Nov. 16 at the Hebrew Home for the Chronically Sick.

The island reportedly has been sold by the city of New Rochelle to a developer, Xanadu, and the latter plans 2,000 luxury condominiums, that under original plans would have reached as high as 50 stories. The developer has been cutting back on the height in more recent proposals in an effort to meet local opposition.

Santiago said the project included its own sewage treat-

ment plant, an 800-boat marina, its own beach facility, and a bridge "bigger than the Brooklyn Bridge." Santiago said that although the project would have adverse effects on the northeast Bronx, especially City Island, Orchard Beach and Long Island Sound, there has been no input from Bronx officials. He noted that the U.S. Coast Guard has been collecting information at public hearings for a couple of years but that as far as he knows, park officials have not submitted documents.

Former Rep. Mario Biaggi did hold a meeting at his office last year shortly before his conviction. That meeting was attended by representatives of the Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, Parks Department and others. But that initiative apparently died when Biaggi was forced to resign and enter prison.

Santiago said the bridge and marina would be sources of oil pollution (damaging the commercial and sportsman fishing in the area); that traffic would congest the ill-equipped Shore Road that goes from New Rochelle into Pelham Bay Park, and would hurt City Island restaurants and Orchard Beach concessions.

Santiago said this week that the Coast Guard report might be coming in January.