

LOGPAC decides rules necessary

by Mark Marinovich
County News Reporter

The Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee (LOGPAC) met Monday night to choose procedures for future meetings.

Since the seven neighborhood committees that comprise LOGPAC began meeting some eight months ago, meetings have been run loosely under Robert's Rules of Order. As the plan develops, committee members have wanted to insure legality of the proceedings.

The question of LOGPAC membership was raised. Under the rules, members must either reside in Live Oak, own property, or own a business.

Al Locatelli, an apartment owner, moved to exclude renters from LOGPAC.

Mike Spencer, a lawyer who drafted the rules, said LOGPAC is essentially a lobbying organization and must have broad community representation to have an impact. He added that renters have always participated in planning

processes.

"I've got five tenants and I will not invite any of them to come out and tell me what to do with my property," said Locatelli.

Several members argued that renters pay tax, like property owners, and contribute to property owners' taxes.

The motion was defeated 35-6.

Phil Baldwin, First Supervisorial District candidate against incumbent Dan Forbus in November, moved to mandate that five of seven neighborhood committee members must reside in their neighborhood.

Harry Hooper said the concept was unfair: "I don't think we can establish first, second, and third class citizens."

"Nothing about this motion says anything about business interests," said Baldwin.

Hooper said he wasn't talking about business interests: "If we can't exclude anybody who pays rent, we can't exclude somebody because they live out of the area."

Temporary Area 7 chairperson Kevin Gougat suggested such a rule wouldn't hold in court because of reverse discrimination.

The motion was defeated.

Mike Miller moved to mandate three members of each of the neighborhood committees be residents.

His motion was defeated.

By a show of hands, 33 LOGPAC members present were determined to reside in their neighborhood. LOGPAC has 49 members.

"A land barron coup," a resident quipped.

At the end of the meeting, Ed Davidson, a professional planner from Santa Cruz, told LOGPAC if they didn't write a plan soon, Santa Cruz would.

"Somebody's gonna write an obituary," mumbled one disgruntled member.

Next Monday night at Live Oak School, nominations for co-chairperson and recorder will be taken. Areas 2 through 6 will caucus at 7 p.m.