

Live Oak Planning Unit Considering New Bylaws

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee (LOGPAC) laboriously worked its way through a set of proposed bylaws at its Monday night meeting, voting in a few significant changes.

The committee, organized to prepare a general plan proposal for Live Oak, has been racked by disorganization the past few months as concerned citizens flooded its ranks. The new bylaws are designed to bring order to the election process and to the weekly meetings.

The major change in the proposed bylaws was to elect two chairmen instead of one to preside over the meetings. They will act as liaisons between the committee and Dan Forbus, First District (Live-Oak, Soquel) supervisor. This change closely follows a recommendation by Forbus that the group elect co-chairmen subject to his approval.

Several members questioned whether Forbus had the authority to approve their selection. Harry Hooper of Neighborhood Seven (the Opal Cliffs area) said that at a luncheon meeting between Forbus and several committee members on Friday, Forbus seemed willing to accept whomever the group chose unless the selection would cause further discord.

Forbus' action of canceling last week's meeting also met with some grumbling from the committee, with Robin Stockwell, a new voting member of Neighborhood 5 (east Live Oak) saying, "I'm a bit put off that Forbus cut off our

meeting. This is our meeting and not his. We should appoint our own chair."

The committee also voted that any officers can be recalled by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership. This includes the recorder(s) the voting membership also will elect. Nominations for the chairmen and the recorder(s) will take place at next Monday's meeting at the Live Oak School at 7:30 p.m., with elections probably following the next week.

There was some confusion over the term of office the officers would serve. A four month term was suggested, but the committee couldn't decide whether this should be a minimum or maximum term or what the procedure would be for a new election at the end of the term. These questions were set aside until next week so nominations could begin without further delay.

The group voted that any one who resides in Live Oak, owns property there and/or owns a business there can be a member of LOGPAC. Before the vote, however, there was discord between those who felt residents who didn't own property shouldn't be voting members and those who thought residents should have a guaranteed vote.

Al Locatelli, voting member of Neighborhood Two (the Maciel-Rodriguez area) motioned that those who are residents but don't own property should be excluded from voting because they could "pick up and go to New York." The motion was defeated, with 6 in favor and 35 against.

Mike Miller, chairman of Neighborhood 3 (the Twin Lakes-Harbor area), made two motions to try to get guaranteed representation for residents: He requested that at least five of the seven voting members in each neighborhood be residents.

This motion lost with 11 voting for it and 29 voting against.

Miller tried again with a motion that at least three members of each neighborhood voting group be residents. This motion failed with 12 in favor and 30 against.

At that point, a voting member asked for a count of how many of the voting members in attendance were actually residents of their neighborhoods. The count was 33 residents, which corresponds closely with a Sentinel poll taken last week which showed that 35 out of 45 voting members polled (of the 49-member total committee) were residents of Live Oak.

Neighborhoods 2 and 6 (Santa Maria del Mar area) will both caucus at 7 p.m. before the general meeting next week.