

Community survey method debated

By CAROLYN SMITH

Although Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee (LOGPAC) has decided to conduct a community survey and form subcommittees for an in-depth study of the area and its neighborhoods — committee members reached no agreement Monday on how these ideas will be carried out.

LOGPAC will re-establish six subgroups to study the subjects of housing, circulation, land use, conservation and open space and finances, but has made no firm arrangements for a meeting schedule.

Several members said this week they are uncertain which of the three kinds of meetings to be held by LOGPAC — general meetings of the voting membership, neighborhood meetings or subject committee meetings — should have the highest priority.

Mike Miller at first suggested that general meetings be held every other week, or on second and fourth Mondays, while neighborhood committees continue to meet regularly and on the first Monday. Subject committee meetings, he said, should be scheduled at least once every month for the whole group and can be held on the third Monday.

Neighborhood committee

meetings, Miller said, provide the total Live Oak community with an opportunity to state concerns for consideration by the voting LOGPAC membership. Purpose of the subject committee meetings will be to take a more detailed approach to long-range planning for Live Oak.

County planner Dennis Pisila agreed that subject committee meetings will be a high priority for LOGPAC, since these groups will work toward formation of goals and objectives to be included in the Live Oak General Plan.

Others among the 39 members present Monday said they are reluctant to tamper with the schedule of meetings since they fear it may slow further progress toward completion of the plan.

LOGPAC did decide to hold the first session of reorganized subject committees on the third Monday of October. Although this meeting will begin as a general session according to the by-laws, the only item of general business will be public communications.

The committee's community questionnaire — which was approved last week — is now ready for distribution, but members could not agree Monday whether to publish the survey in newspapers or to mail

it through the county planning department.

It was originally suggested to ask for newspaper space for the survey, but several members said they think a published survey will be an unreliable method of obtaining community opinion on planning issues.

Monday, Supervisor Dan Forbus told LOGPAC he believes the county board of supervisors can provide additional funding of some estimated \$920 to cover mailing costs for the survey. The procedure of the board, he said, would be to allocate the funds to the county planning department.

While a majority seemed to favor the questionnaire mailing, there were disagreements over how lists will be made to include tenants and out-of-town property owners as well as residents and Live Oak business owners and operators.

The questionnaire was again referred to a subcommittee, which will make suggestions for distribution at the next general meeting.

In preparation for subject committee work, planner Dennis Pisila outlined components and amendments of the 1961 county general plan and Santa Cruz and Capitola City plans relating to Live Oak. Pisila also cautioned

LOGPAC not to become overly concerned with possible changes in present land use, and to work toward staged growth plans for the next five, 10 and 20 years.

There have been several amendments to the 1961 county plan, Pisila said. These are the Twin Lakes-Harbor Plan adopted in 1965; the PROS (Parks, Recreation and Open Space) Plan formed in 1973-74, which covers neighborhood parks, coastal lagoons and riparian corridors; the 1964 Capitola City Plan, Santa Cruz City Plan and the bicycle route master plan, which was approved this month as a component of the circulation element.

Pisila said until the last few years, the county attempted to implement portions of city plans that covered the Live Oak area, until it was decided that only one plan — the 1961 county plan — actually applies to the unincorporated area. Zoning has not been consistent with the county plan from as early as 1963, he said, when the county passed a zoning ordinance that changed land use trends for the area.

The next session of LOGPAC will be a neighborhood committee meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday night at Live Oak Elementary School cafeteria.

The meetings are open to all residents, property and business owners in the seven neighborhood areas.

LOGPAC was told a committee letter sent to the county board of supervisors will be considered Monday night by the county Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services (POSCS) Commission.

LOGPAC has asked the county to apply for funding for park sites in Live Oak through the Robert Z'Berg Urban Open-Space and Recreation Program.

Supervisor Dan Forbus supplied voting members with information regarding the act, including guidelines to be used in the distribution of \$25 million available for parks in the state. Santa Cruz County will be eligible for a portion of about \$4 million.

Under these guidelines, priority will be given to proposed projects that serve high density residential areas, are close to densely populated areas yet serving areas with the least facilities for recreational use, areas with good public access and areas that meet needs of low-income residential areas.

Proposals that require little improvement or maintenance and those that stress recreational use rather than beautification will also be favored.