

Confusion reigns

Board has final say

By CAROLYN SWIFT

Confused about county procedure regarding general plans, a number of LOGPAC (Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee) members were dismayed Monday to learn it will be the county board of supervisors who will have the final say on a general plan design for Live Oak.

An outline of county actions to be taken on a completed plan was provided by Supervisor Dan Forbus, who attended Monday's session to explain some of his actions during LOGPAC's transition in membership and procedure during the past two months.

Forbus surprised several LOGPAC newcomers when he explained the rough draft to be compiled by the citizen's committee can be changed as it moves through a series of public hearings and review by county planning staff, the planning commission and board of supervisors.

If LOGPAC can convince three supervisors to accept the committee plan in its original form, Forbus said, then it will be passed as designed by the citizen's group. Both supporters and opponents to the LOGPAC document will have a chance to influence the final design of a general plan.

Committee member George Jercich then wondered why the group should go to the trouble of working on formation of a planning document.

"Supervisor Forbus tells us this is the first time a citizen's group has ever attempted to form its own general plan," Jercich said. "And he adds that he

doesn't know if that's good, bad or indifferent. Then he answers a question that our decisions can be changed. If everyone takes this so lightly, why do we meet?"

Forbus replied that he feels the citizen's group is a positive departure from previous methods of designing a general plan, and emphasized work done by LOGPAC will be weighed the same as other plans approved in the county.

Jercich suggested a letter be sent to the county planning commission and board of supervisors asking how much weight will be given to LOGPAC recommendations when final decisions are made.

"What I think you are asking for is a vote in advance," the supervisor said. "But I don't believe you'll get it."

While another member argued that LOGPAC wishes a vote of confidence from the county board, Barney Bricmont observed, "What you really want is a guarantee."

Harry Hooper said while the supervisors will reply to a letter, "the answer will be a Mickey Mouse one." He added he believes the board will accept the general plan design that has the greatest support.

Forbus also warned the group Monday not to rely on weekly neighborhood caucuses as the only means of communication with the seven LOGPAC areas.

"If you do this, the only people you can talk to are the ones that come to the meeting," he said. "Somewhere along the line you are going to be surprised when people from the different neighborhoods come to a hearing

and say they had no idea this was going on."

The supervisor suggested neighborhood voting members divide the responsibility of contacting residents and property owners by telephone or by holding meetings apart from the general session.

Earlier in the meeting, LOGPAC agreed on a suggestion by member Lenore Wilkerson to conduct a newspaper survey within Live Oak neighborhoods to gather opinion on goals and objectives — and to help inform residents of LOGPAC progress. The survey will assist the committee in obtaining grassroots feedback, Mrs. Wilkerson said.

Several members argued that a newspaper survey may be ineffective as a means of gathering opinion, while others said they doubted if the public has the knowledge to adequately comment on a general plan design.

Robin Stockwell suggested the committee use the questionnaire as one of several methods to gather information from the general public. LOGPAC later set up a subcommittee to form a list of 10 questions to be used in the neighborhood survey.

Monday evening was LOGPAC's first chance to practice under the set of by-laws approved last week — and in one action the procedures proved unsatisfactory.

During the election co-chairman, Dick Dugan — who has served as a LOGPAC co-chairman for several months — and Robin Stockwell, a business

owner, resident and Live Oak tenant, were top vote getters on the first ballot. Since neither had a clear majority of 25 votes, a second ballot was cast — with a resulting tie vote of 24 to 24.

After a third ballot failed to turn up a majority for either candidate, the group decided to set aside the by-laws requiring a majority vote. Dugan and Stockwell were elected on a fourth ballot to serve equally as committee co-chairmen.

A resident since 1970, Stockwell and his family own and operate a nursery in Live Oak. He is among the committee members who became active in the past several months, and said he is interested in "creating a working, realistic general plan for Live Oak."

Stockwell said while he is planning to buy property in Live Oak, he owns no property at the present time. He later joined in an argument with another candidate, Al Locatelli, who favors the exclusion of tenants from voting membership.

Locatelli said he is against tenant membership because of a "here today, gone tomorrow" attitude among this group.

"If you choose not to listen to tenants, and hear only business and property owners," Stockwell said, "Would you listen to me?"

"More than likely not," Locatelli said.

Several Live Oak tenants and former tenants also challenged Locatelli, and said they felt they were paying property taxes through their rent and had an equal interest in the community.

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LOGPAC

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Dick Dugan is one of the few members who also participated in the Live Oak Community Action League (LOCAL) which worked with Supervisor Forbus in the initiation of LOGPAC.

In his campaign discussion, Dugan told the committee he became involved with LOCAL and LOGPAC because he saw Live Oak becoming controlled by small interest groups, with no means for residents to influence direction or future of their communities. He was particularly opposed to "sphere of influence" decisions of LAFCO (Local Action Formation Commission) that portioned Live Oak between the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola for future annexation.

There were some further changes in membership Monday with an election of representatives in Neighborhood Two, which replaced a majority of the original committee members. Area representatives elected this week are Randy Loffman, Carl Holser, Ed Knight, Al Locatelli, Owen Lloyd, Ann Jones, and Dale Osborn.

Alternates selected in Neighborhood Seven were Bill Dettle, Doug Holmes, Bud Nichols, Johanna Beckman, David Lyall, Bryan Gillingham, Dan Landry, Reginald Perry, Virginia Miller, Charles Briggs and Jean Lemoigne.

Before the general session Monday, there will be caucus sessions of neighborhoods 5, 6, 2 and 7 at 7 p.m. at Live Oak School. The LOGPAC session will start at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria, Capitola Road and Chanticleer Ave.