

LOGPAC throws caution to the winds

By CAROLYN SWIFT

The Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee hurried through final drafts of subcommittee reports Monday night — accepting some statements without a last review or the approval of a quorum.

The remainder of LOGPAC's study will now be turned over to a steering committee handpicked by Mrs. Chris Hooper, chairwoman, who will serve as an ex-officio member. Members are Gregg Evans, Norma Eldridge, Cliff Crusan and Bob Dettle. LOGPAC gave Mrs. Hooper authority to replace any member of the steering group who cannot attend sessions during the next few weeks.

The steering committee has been delegated the task of reviewing final drafts of the housing committee report which was on the agenda Monday night, but not discussed before the 10:30 p.m. adjournment. It will also be the responsibility of this small group to revise and incorporate general plan element reports on land use, housing, parks, open space and recreation, transportation and services into a format for presentation to the county planning commission.

Monday's meeting will be LOGPAC's final session until mid-March, when the document compiled by the steering committee will be presented for final review.

Although this week's session was attended by some 30 voting

members, the number of participants dropped below a quorum shortly after a break at about 9 p.m.

Some of those who attended the LOGPAC meeting as voting members are somewhat new to the organization. One of them, Mrs. Norma Nelson, told the group, "I'm not sure where I am, or if I'm coming or going," when told she was a representative of Neighborhood Five.

There were expressions of frustration and confusion at the meeting — and several strong statements were directed against Supervisor Phil Baldwin, who has pressed LOGPAC to complete its recommendations as soon as possible, and has warned that work toward a general plan for Live Oak will move ahead even if the committee fails to finish its document by mid-March.

Members are now aware that their plan will be only one of several to be considered by county planning commission members and the board of supervisors.

Baldwin, a former LOGPAC member before his election as supervisor in November, has asked the county board to set a timetable for completion of Live Oak's plan, and county planning department staff has been directed by supervisors to prepare several alternate plans to be considered along with the one prepared by LOGPAC.

County planner Dennis Pisila told LOGPAC there will be three alternate plans to be prepared —

and one of them will be based on existing service, and is likely to be a "low-growth," proposal.

There are several original members of LOGPAC who lost their voting positions or withdrew during a reorganization last June, who have saved their work toward a general plan. These statements by the early group may also be presented to the county planning commission.

This week, LOGPAC learned that Baldwin planned to ask county supervisors to withdraw the assistance of county staff — specifically the aid of Pisila — who may be reassigned to work on the county staff's alternate plans and on two area public meetings.

This action, said member Mike Spencer, is seen by LOGPAC as an attempt to circumvent the opinion of a majority of the present membership, and "to stop its voice from being heard."

Spencer said Baldwin has implied, "Let's get rid of LOGPAC."

Mrs. Hooper agreed. "I don't think it's such a great honor to be elected supervisor when I see the caliber of people elected," she said, "becoming a supervisor doesn't give a person a license to override the decisions of the citizens."

Pisila, who has now worked 1½ years with LOGPAC in preparation of a general plan document, attempted to add his thoughts on Baldwin's action, but was cut short.

"We don't expect you to explain

it," the chairwoman said, "He's your boss."

A motion was passed to ask the county board not to pull county planning staff help during the last few weeks of general plan preparation, and an amendment was added authorizing Mrs. Hooper to make that request before the board.

A review of parks, recreation and open space statements that began last week was completed during the study session — although the discussion was kept brief. After the presentation, Mrs. Hooper told the committee she had injected her opinion on several occasions because she acted as chairperson of parks, open space and recreation subcommittee rather than as leader of LOGPAC.

Arguments concentrated on the County PROS (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space) plan and whether or not LOGPAC is obligated to follow its recommendations; and statements in the LOGPAC report against further addition of parks in Live Oak that might attract additional tourists. Mrs. Hooper said as an advisory group, LOGPAC is free to contradict the PROS plan if the majority disagrees with the report.

A discussion about the need for neighborhood parks again became a discussion of school enrollments and projected population for Live Oak — a familiar argument between Mrs. Hooper and Pisila.

In a review of land use, the membership voted 11-10 to narrow the band identified as riparian corridor.

as study nears completion