

Rules change comes late in game

Its problems of unbalanced representation and confusion over county authority left unresolved, LOGPAC (Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee) spent Monday evening struggling through the tedious task of revising and approving proposed by-laws. (See earlier story page 16.)

LOGPAC's meeting was well-attended by some 170 persons this week after cancellation of the regular session last Monday and a meeting of about 15 committee representatives with Supervisor Dan Forbus on Friday.

Because of neighborhood caucusing beforehand, the meeting Monday had a late start and work on the by-laws took up most of the general session. It was evident from the discussion that events of the past week had eased few disagreements and resulted in no greater spirit of cooperation among those active since December and the newcomers—who have largely identified with commercial and business interests.

There were also doubts expressed on whether or not Supervisor Forbus had a right to cancel LOGPAC's meeting last

Monday, and if he has authority to appoint a permanent chairman and co-chairman.

Anne Garni, a property owner from Area Two, questioned whether a neighborhood meeting of the Maciel-Rodriguez group on the night of the cancelled LOPGPAC session can be invalidated.

"Area Two met last week and nominated a new slate," she said, "I spoke with Supervisor Dan Forbus tonight and he said he has no control over neighborhood caucuses, so our re-vote is valid."

Dick Dugan, LOGPAC co-chairman, explained since there was a good deal of confusion last week when members were notified of the cancellation, it would be unfair to consider the nominations as binding.

On Friday, Forbus told the neighborhood representatives that, "Any meeting of the committee (last) Monday is not valid. They could meet, as anyone can meet at any time, but no action could be taken in relation to planning."

Neighborhood Two representatives argued Monday that since they held nominations last week, they should be able to

continue with plans to formally elect new voting members at the session that night. "Tonight Supervisor Forbus said any action, or nomination of members is official," Anne Garni said, "But in our caucus, the old group took over and we were not allowed to vote."

In the neighborhood nominations for Area Two last Monday, all but one of the previous voting members were to lose their voting status, Area Two will hold a caucus session and formal election of these members preceding the regular LOGPAC meeting this week, and voting membership is open to all Maciel-Rodriguez neighborhood residents, property and business owners.

During the discussion of by-laws, a number of amendments were proposed by both the long-time and newcomer groups.

A motion was made on the suggestion of Sal Pratillo to exclude tenants from the voting membership.

Member Mike Spencer, an attorney, argued that tenants are legally residents, and as an unofficial committee essentially

lobbying for the best interests of Live Oak, LOGPAC must give all residents a voice. To exclude tenants, he said, would be to leave out a significant portion of the Live Oak population.

Al Locatelli said he was a voting member with five tenants renting from him, and added "I will not ask any of them to come and tell me what to do with my property."

Locatelli moved for the exclusion, but the proposal was defeated by a vote of 35 opposed to six in favor of the motion.

Phil Baldwin, who will face Dan Forbus in a run-off election for supervisor of the Soquel-Live Oak District in November, suggested LOGPAC require at least five of the seven voting members of each neighborhood to be residents of the area they represent.

"Those who reside in Live Oak have the greatest stake in its future," he said, "They should be insured an adequate representation."

Baldwin's motion was opposed by Harry Hooper and several others, who spoke against setting "quotas" for membership. The

motion was defeated by a vote of 29 against to 11 in favor of the suggestion.

Mike Miller then made a similar motion to require at least three voting members of each neighborhood committee to be area residents.

Robin Stockwell argued that the requirement was unnecessary "Since Live Oak is 62 percent residential, if these representatives vote in a neighborhood caucus they would be overwhelmingly represented," he said.

Baldwin said he believed a vote against the motion would be a vote in favor of absentee ownership, while Miller added he felt a minimum requirement for residency would insure adequate representation. The motion was defeated 30-12.

Norma Eldridge suggested a count be taken to see how many members on of the 49-member committee are Live Oak residents. Thirty-three voting representatives raised their hands.

Dan Landry, co-chairman, said later some of the 33 members are residents in one area and com-

mmercial business owners in another Live Oak area, so a resident count is no valid indicator of whether these members are sympathetic to resident interests or commercial interests. Landry estimated that only about 26 members are residents who do not own additional, property or business in the Live Oak general plan boundaries.

LOGPAC agreed to elect a chairman and co-chairman to be approved and appointed by Supervisor Forbus, and revised by-law sections to allow for committee elections of other officers.

Nominations for co-chairmen will be made at the next meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Live Oak Elementary School cafeteria. While only the voting members will participate in the election process, the neighborhood committees are open to all Live Oak residents including tenants and to property and business owners.

A caucus session at 7 p.m. will precede the regular LOGPAC meeting this week for Neighborhoods 2, 4, 5, and 6.