

Committee ...aking second try at putting ideas

By CAROLYN SWIFT

Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee (LOGPAC) has now been working 11 months on its recommendations for a general plan — and has begun once again to hammer together the written statements to eventually be considered for the final document.

For a few LOGPAC members, the tedious sessions for revising reports on goals, policy statements and objectives are a repeat of their experience last spring before the membership was restructured.

LOGPAC was in the process of finishing written suggestions when work was cut off by business and property owners who charged that philosophy incorporated in the developing plan was a threat to commercial and development interests.

As a result, general plan statements were set aside while the committee was reorganized and new voting members were elected to fill vacant positions —

and in some cases, to replace original members. In the following months, all but four or five of those from the first group dropped out of active participation. Although attendance was high during the turn-over in membership last summer, averaging more than 100 persons for several weeks, the numbers decreased as the committee once again took up the chore of forming a general plan for Live Oak.

Monday night, the LOGPAC session was attended by 27 members — and the meeting began without a quorum of half the total membership of 49 people.

Topics during the general study sessions this month have been preliminary and final reports of subcommittees on parks, recreation and open space and services. Preliminary reports on land use, housing and circulation are also scheduled but have been postponed until next week.

Mrs. Christine Hooper, who was nominated Monday night to replace Robin Stockwell as co-chairman, read a final draft of the letter to be sent to county supervisors with recommendations on park sites for Live Oak.

These recommendations will be considered for a county application for grant funding from the Roberti-Z'berg program — which provides matching funds for the acquisition of land and development of parks. Supervisors will review LOGPAC's proposal along with the suggestions given by the Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space

and Cultural Services (POSCS) Commission.

Arguments about the LOGPAC proposal concerning the riparian corridor at Rodeo Gulch began before Co-chairman Dick Dugan finished reading the minutes of the previous meeting.

There was some disagreement over uses for the gulch lands, which have been designated as open space and will be included as site for development of a 25-foot park corridor in the LOGPAC site application proposal.

Mrs. Hooper explained the 25-foot corridor will provide hiking and bicycle pathways and recreational opportunity while preserving the corridor already designated to remain in open space.

The riparian corridor at Rodeo Gulch was identified as an area of conservation in the 1961 county general plan, and was designated as open space in the county PROS (Parks, Recreation and Open Space) plan. Because of this, Mrs. Hooper said, the LOGPAC recommendation specifies that property owners be compensated when the park corridor is developed — through either direct purchase of the property or through granting of additional land development rights.

The proposal calls for acquisition of the total area identified as riparian corridor in the PROS plan, while only the 25-foot corridor will actually be developed for park activities.

Both Mrs. Hooper and her husband, Harry, said the county is obligated to purchase the Rodeo

Gulch corridor since it has been marked for preservation as open space, and that compensation and acquisition of this land should be a priority.

"The land is designated as a riparian corridor," Mrs. Hooper said, "The county should either acquire and purchase it for a park, or let it go for development."

County planner Dennis Pisila argued that much of the land along the corridor is unbuildable whether or not it becomes a park site, and added that purchase of the land is perhaps less urgent acquisition than some other sites, since the riparian corridor has carried a designation for conservation for 16 years.

"Land for public use should be purchased," Mrs. Hooper replied, "Even though it can't be developed, someone owns it, and they should be compensated for what it is worth."

Harry Hooper further argued that land owners along Rodeo Gulch are upset because the county assessor "doesn't understand that land along the riparian corridor is unusable," he said, "He assesses it as if it was."

Other recommendations to be a part of the LOGPAC letter to county supervisors include development of land at Moran

Lake and the adjoining county sanitation district land, as recommended by the POSCS Commission last month; and acquisition of one parcel plus development of two others near Del Mar School, for use as a neighborhood park with tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Mrs. Hooper said the school district has agreed to help plan the additional park land around the school, so it can be used by the community in conjunction with school facilities.

Dick Dugan again read the report of the services committee Monday, and one of the final revisions was to change the suggestion for a regional library at 41st Avenue to support the Live Oak School District in its appeal for a library branch at the senior center under construction near Live Oak School on 17th Avenue.

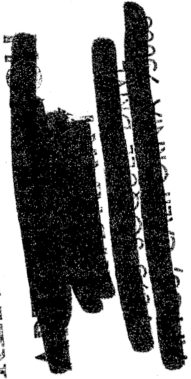
Dugan said he agrees with the school district that a library branch at the senior center will provide better access for Live Oak residents. Several members agreed that they prefer their children traveled to a library near a school rather than tackle traffic at 41st Avenue.

At the end of Monday's session, Ellen Gruys, an aide to Supervisor Baldwin, announced the supervisor has sent a timeline to

the board concerning completion of the Live Oak General Plan. Baldwin has urged LOGPAC to finish its work by mid-February, and has tentatively set June as a target for final approval by county supervisors.

Baldwin is further recommending that development proposals inconsistent with the 1961 county general plan, or in some cases, the county PROS plan, be denied or continued until the plan for Live Oak is completed. He has asked that property developments that may interfere with

REFERENCE



into words

implementation of the new plan plan is done before action is taken also be requested to wait until the on the proposals.