

Laguna . . .

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residents.

"Call it what you want," Magnie said, "what you've done is remove an entire group of people ... from a place on a duly constituted city committee."

City Manager Paul Berlant said the original 7-member committee included a position for an "at-large" member, but there were no applications, so the Laguna Foundation was given two representatives on the committee.

Foley initially supported Crump's desire to have Sebastopol Tomorrow's representation removed from the committee. After Crump's move to replace that representation with an at-large member failed, however, Foley, "in the interest of the Council's decision," to stick with the committee as it is now constituted, voted with the rest of the Council to continue Sebastopol Tomorrow's representation.

Not only did the City Council decide to continue Sebastopol Tomorrow's repre-

sentation on the committee, council members also agreed to ask the other groups represented on the committee to make re-appointment recommendations. One "at-large" position was added to the committee to replace the Park and Recreation Commission representative.

Councilwoman Kathy Austin called Crump's proposed action "counter-productive," and said she would much rather see the Council "build bridges in this community, rather than tearing them down."

Crump first raised the issue of the legitimacy of the organization's representation on the committee in January when the Council was making re-appointments to the body and considering amendments to the policy which created the committee in the first place.

The committee was created in 1994 to help establish a plan for implementation of the Laguna Park Master Plan. Policy calls for a committee of at least seven members appointed for a two-year term. Original appointments were made in September of 1994.

After the resignation of the representative from the Sonoma County Parks Department and

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the Council's dissolution of the Park and Recreation Commission, the committee had dwindled to five members.

Richard Nichols, one of the founders of Sebastopol Tomorrow and the group's representative on the Laguna Committee, said he would want to continue working on the committee even if he had to apply for an "at-large" seat.

"The important thing is the Laguna Park and not the politics," he said.

Sebastopol Tomorrow's continued representation on the committee is important to the average city resident, Nichols said, because it represented "regular working people without ... other interests," such as real estate or business, Nichols said.

Although he wouldn't comment on Crump's motivation,

Nichols said, "I don't believe the mayor thinks the Laguna is important." If this was a political power play "I would like us to get past it ... to have a healthy community we have to get past that stuff."

Jeff Edelheit, who was the Chamber of Commerce's representative on the committee, said he could understand Crump's concerns.

The mayor has the right, he said, "to question the balance," on the committee. Although the important criteria for judging any group's representation is "by their contribution more than who they are."

Edelheit resigned from the committee a couple of months ago, he said, because it had "sort of come to a standstill," after developing a work plan for park implementation.

"All parts of the community should be represented on a project of this size," Edelheit said. "The committee really needs to come together with a strong focus. Without a shadow of a doubt environmental concerns have to be represented on that committee and Sebastopol Tomorrow is the only group in town that I know of that could do that."