

## Association Board of Directors, Committees Set Goals for 1998

Regionalism, workforce development, water supply and congestion mitigation were just a few of the topics discussed at the annual North Houston Association Board of Directors planning retreat in February.

The North Houston Association's Board of Directors and committee chairmen met at The Woodlands Executive Conference Center for a half-day planning session followed by golf donated by The Woodlands Operating Company L.P.

"This was the best board retreat we've had in years," said board member Gary Montgomery. "We covered a lot of ground and had some great discussions on timely issues."

At the retreat, NHA's committee chairmen and vice chairmen presented the 1998 goals for their committees. Each committee has a large number of goals that will have an impact on the north Houston region.

NHA's Economic Development Committee resolved to update the NHA Aerial Land Use Map, among other goals. The map is a project that NHA undertakes every four to five years and is a valuable economic development tool requested by individuals and companies throughout the country. David Daleiden, Weingarten Realty, is chairing the subcommittee, and the Board specifically recognized him for his dedication to the project.

Building on a site consultant visit in 1997, the Economic Development Committee also plans to host an event that will bring in a site relocation expert to address NHA's membership in 1998. Once again, NHA will participate in the

| <b>Highlights of 1998 Committee Goals</b>   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Economic Development</b><br>Update Aerial Land Use Map<br>Host National Site Consultant Visit<br>Participate in Houston Compensation Association's 1998 Survey | <b>Grand Parkway</b><br>Gather Information on Grand Parkway<br>Review Constraints in Northern Corridor<br>Create and Distribute Informational Document on Findings |
| <b>Environment</b><br>Follow Implementation of Senate Bill 1<br>Monitor and Comment on Wetlands Issues<br>Allocate Beautification Funds for a Specific Project    | <b>Transportation</b><br>Revise and Reprint Mobility Update<br>Create Database of Road Projects<br>Monitor Progress of Airport Connector Projects                  |
| <i>A detailed description of 1998 goals and 1997 accomplishments have been distributed to all NHA member contacts.</i>  |  |

Houston Compensation Association's annual survey and continue to update its membership on other economic development issues.

The Environment Committee's scope of work includes following the implementation of Senate Bill 1 and making recommendations to area legislators when necessary. The committee also will monitor the implementation of the Clean Air Act and its impact on north Houston as well as play a role in impacting other environmental issues such as wetlands and landfills.

NHA's Grand Parkway Committee has already completed several of its goals in just the first two months of 1998. The committee has reviewed information currently available on the Grand Parkway as well as gathered data on possible constraints in the current corridor. Several speakers have addressed the committee, including Texas Department of Transportation's District Engi-

neer Gary Trietsch and Harris County Toll Road Authority's Executive Director Wesley Freise.

The Association's Transportation Committee will revise and reprint the NHA Mobility Update this year. Meetings with area agencies have already taken place to determine the content of the document. The committee will also  
*(Continued on next page)*

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- ◆ NHA addresses regionalism
- ◆ The Betz Companies joins NHA's membership
- ◆ Annual award recipients recognized



## From the President...

Dear NHA Members:

What a successful 1997 we've had! I can't say enough how much I appreciate the hard work of all our committee chairmen, vice chairmen, Board members and staff. Our recent Board retreat was extremely successful. I attribute much of the retreat's success to Board members' willingness to be creative and think about future programs and services NHA can offer.

As mentioned in the cover story, the Board has created a task force to discuss what seems to be one of the most talked about issues in the area: regionalism. I agree that all areas of Houston are interdependent on each other. Whether we are talking about water supply, annexation, economic development or transportation, no one area is completely independent from the areas that surround it.

NHA has known this for years. In fact, one of the reasons the Association was created is to address issues that are regional in nature. Recent examples of this include the Mobility Update and the Aerial Land Use Map. I look forward to working with our members on regionalism during the year.

*Senator Jon Lindsay*

## 1998 Goals

*(Continued from page 1)*

continue to monitor the progress of its priority airport connector projects and communicate information on transportation issues to NHA membership.

Also on the transportation front, NHA Project Director Catherine Wray is creating a data base that will track north Houston road projects.

NHA's Transportation Management Organization (TMO) will hire a TMO Projects Coordinator to administer new programs for the TMO, including a guaranteed ride home program, transportation fairs and information booths and an information packet on starting up a telecommuting program. Activities of the TMO will also include promoting METRO bus services and local shuttle services and providing ride matching services for carpool and van-pool formation in cooperation with METRO and H-GAC.

In addition to the current committee goals, the Association has created a Board of Directors task force to explore the issue of regionalism. NHA also is

considering forming a new committee focused strictly on workforce development.

All NHA members are welcome to serve on one or more committees; if you would like to sign up for a committee or just observe a meeting, contact the Association office. ■

## Grover Jackson to Speak on Tax Reform

Grover Jackson, president and executive director of Americans for Fair Taxation, will speak at the North Houston Association's next quarterly membership luncheon.

Americans for Fair Taxation is a non-profit, non-partisan, national advocacy group committed to the replacement of the current federal income tax system with a national retail sales tax.

Jackson has been both a tax and a business lawyer, most recently holding various positions with The Coca-Cola Company.

The luncheon will take place Wednesday, April 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Greenpoint Hotel.

Tables of 10 are available for \$200 each. Cost for individuals is: members \$25 and non-members \$35.

Contact the NHA office (281/875-0660) to RSVP. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, April 1. Reservations made but not cancelled by April 1 will be billed. ■



*NHA President Jon Lindsay (left) and NHA Chairman James Royer (second from right) congratulate NHA annual award winners James Hebert, TxDOT, Jon Strange, JNS Consulting Engineers, Jimmie Schindewolf, city of Houston and Seth Sharr, Star Enterprise.*



### Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee is completing its update of the 1998 NHA Aerial Land Use Map.

The committee has solicited changes from all NHA members as well as all chambers of commerce in the association's service area.

The following companies have committed to underwrite the map, and their logos will be prominently displayed: Carter & Burgess, Hines Interests Limited Partnership, Houston Lighting & Power Company, JNS Consulting Engineers Inc., North Harris Montgomery Community College District, Pate Engineers Inc., Shell Oil Company, South Montgomery County Economic Development Partnership, Southwestern Bell, Star Enterprise, Turner Collie & Braden and Weingarten Realty.

The committee expects the map to be available for purchase this summer.

The committee is once again participating in the Houston Compensation Association's 1998 Compensation Survey. The association's involvement in 1997 allowed NHA to obtain a north Houston cut of the region's compensation figures to use in fulfilling economic development inquiries.

If you did not receive a survey and would like to participate, contact the NHA office. Deadline for survey completion is April 3.

### Environment Committee

NHA's Environment Committee initiated a joint meeting with the Greater Houston Partnership, TriTech Regional Council and the West Houston Association in order to build a consensus on nominations to the Texas Water Development Board's Regional Planning Group for Region H.

The planning group will be respon-

sible for developing a regional water plan for a 15-county area, including Harris County.

After meeting with the other area organizations, the North Houston Association nominated a common list of individuals for the Region H planning group. A number of NHA's recommendations were approved by the Texas Water Development Board.

On a wetlands note, the committee recently submitted a letter to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) regarding its interpretation of Title 30 TAC 279.11 (c)(1) in its Water Quality Certification role on Department of Army Section 404 Permits. TNRCC will soon draft a formal policy on this interpretation and will distribute it for public comment. During the public comment period, the head of TNRCC's Water Quality Division will speak at NHA's April Environment Committee meeting in order to discuss the Association's concerns with the new policy.

The Environment and Transportation Committees held a joint meeting to review and comment on Harris County's draft Regulations for Development Projects. Comments have been consolidated and forwarded to Harris County for consideration.

### Grand Parkway Committee

The Grand Parkway Committee, created at Congressman Brady's request, has already accomplished a number of its goals for the year.

The committee has now reviewed information on the Grand Parkway, including history, environmental constraints and alternate sources of funding.

The committee is now in the process of compiling all information gathered into one comprehensive informational document to be used when dis-

cussing the future of the project.

Also at Congressman Brady's request, the committee has drafted language that may be inserted as an amendment into the new reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). This language designates that the Grand Parkway be considered as a potential I-69 bypass in route studies performed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

### Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee is currently revising the Association's Mobility Update. The subcommittee has now received input from all Montgomery County Commissioners, County Judge Alan Sadler and Montgomery County Engineers Don Blanton and Mark Mooney.

A database is being created to house information on transportation projects in the north Houston region. The database will include information such as project time lines, environmental constraints, funding sources and managing agency(ies).

The database will be useful in the periodic revisions of the Mobility Update as well as serve as a resource to NHA members when seeking information on mobility projects in north Houston.

### Golf Tournament Committee

The Golf Tournament Committee, chaired by Bobby Adams, Turner Collie & Braden, Inc., is beginning to meet in order to plan the Fourth Annual North Houston Association Golf Tournament.

Compaq Computer Corporation has once again stepped up as the tournament's Gold Sponsor!

## Upcoming Events

### Welcome, New Member!

The Betz Companies is the newest company to join the ranks of NHA membership.

The Betz Companies is made up of four divisions which own, manage, develop and broker various commercial properties throughout Harris and surrounding counties. The company's emphasis has expanded in recent years from buying and selling commercial land to buying and developing income properties including retail centers, industrial properties, apartments, hotels, condominiums, mini-storage and estate lots.

The company's roots are firmly planted in north Harris County where Ray Betz purchased his first investment property in 1976. The company now has 20 employees and 14 real estate broker/agents representing approximately \$200 million in commercial real estate.

### NHA Committee Meetings

#### Transportation

The Transportation Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on March 25, April 22 and May 27 in the Greenspoint Conference Center. Contact the NHA office to RSVP.

#### Environment

The Environment Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on March 12, April 9 and May 14 in the Greenspoint Conference Center. Contact the NHA office to RSVP.

#### Economic Development

Call the NHA office (281/875-0660) for more information on meeting dates.

#### Grand Parkway

The Grand Parkway Committee will meet March 11, April 8 and May 13 at 7:30 a.m. Contact the NHA office for information on location, as they vary depending on subject matter.

### Special Thanks...

to the Greater Greenspoint District and JNS Consulting Engineers, Inc. for their generous underwriting of this issue of "NHA VISION."



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