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Committee Meetings...

Board of Directors

Dates: Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Place: The Greenspoint Club

Business Issues & Resources

Dates: Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 28

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

Environment

Dates: Jan. 10, Feb. 14, Mar. 14

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

Transportation

Dates: Jan. 23, Feb. 27, Mar. 27

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

RSVP for all meetings by calling

281-875-0660.



The NHA VISION is a
Quarterly Publication
for North Houston
Association Members.



NHA board members, committee chairmen and staff members (and John Wayne!) set the tone for 2002 at NHA's Annual Board Retreat in October.

NHA Gets Revised Mission, New Logo at Annual Board Retreat

The new year will bring with it a new look and a revised mission, thanks to the efforts of NHA's Board of Directors and staff at the Association's annual retreat in October.

"The North Houston Association has always been about advocacy. The issues vary from time to time, but our role in the community remains the same," said Senator Jon Lindsay, NHA president. "This is where our strength lies, and what sets us apart from any other organization in the area."

In addition to adopting a new mission statement, James Curry unveiled the Association's new logo, created by The Albrecht Agency.

Michael Strickland, designer, described the elements of the logo at the retreat.

"We kept the green that represents the beauty of north Houston as well as the recognizable 'H'. We added movement in the center of the design to reflect the Association's ongoing work as the voice for north Houston," said Strickland.

Committee chairmen were at the retreat to present the committees' proposed 2002 goals to the Board.

Environment Committee Chairman Rafael Ortega, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., discussed a number of environmental issues, then pared the list to a manageable number for the Association to address.

He listed the top regional environmental issues as surface water, flood control and development issues.

The Surface Water Work Group plans to review source and distribution issues, establish an information data bank, and sponsor a surface water forum.

Ortega reported that the Flood Control Work Group would monitor the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) restudy process, review and comment on these findings, identify additional funding sources and advocate for an increase in funding.

The Development Issues Work Group will review, comment and offer recommendations on the implementation of water quality requirements, natural resources regulations and rulings, county development regulations, and city

planning commission revisions.

Transportation Committee Chairman Chris Cotter, Brown & Gay, presented his committee's goals. These include assisting the city of Houston, METRO, Harris County and Montgomery County in achieving their objectives regarding project funding, publishing a revised Mobility Update, advocating for airport mobility, tracking the progress of the Grand Parkway, monitoring high capacity transit, and working on legislative and regulatory issues.

The North Houston Association, on behalf of its members, advocates and supports projects and initiatives which advance the business environment and improve the quality of life in north Harris and Montgomery Counties.

- NHA's New Mission Statement



("Retreat" continued on page three)



From the President

*Senator Jon Lindsay
President*

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is currently faced with making major decisions that will affect the Houston region - allocation of Statewide Transportation Enhancement Projects (STEP) funds. Eligible project categories include hike and bike trails, landscaping, historic preservation and control and removal of outdoor advertising. TxDOT elected to administer the project solicitation and awards with two project calls of \$130 million each - one in 1999 and the second with selection in November 2001. In the first call, the Houston area was greatly shortchanged, and none of us want to see that happen again.

I am disappointed in the apparent direction the allocation process is going as it pertains to Harris County. There are several projects in the area that deserve to be on the short list, including the Westchase trail project and the county's downtown transit plaza. My personal favorite is the beautification project into the Bush Intercontinental Airport from Hardy. This project would definitely impress first time visitors to our state. It is our goal to make the Hardy connector the main entrance to the airport. We've already done a lot by preventing billboards along the route.

I realize this is a large state, and there is not enough money to take care of all the worthwhile projects. I also recognize that with the more conservative legislature we will have in the next decade, a gas tax increase is probably out of the question. More funding is desperately needed to solve our growing transportation needs.

I hope the state shows its appreciation to Harris County for demonstrating the way to increase revenue with the use of toll facilities. Not only has Harris County put up most of the money on the projects previously mentioned, it has also pledged nearly one half of the money needed for the \$1.1 billion Katy Freeway expansion. I also hope TxDOT takes advantage of the county's offer to fund \$500 million of the Katy and to also have similar partnerships on other major highways.

As early as 1983, we had projections that the Harris County Toll Road System as then perceived, would generate hundreds of millions of extra dollars over time. Now less than twenty years later, those projections are coming true. We can avoid a gas tax increase if we manage toll road revenues properly. There will be political mayhem, however, if a community that is willing to tax itself with tolls feels it is not getting its fair share of gas tax revenue.

I'm communicating with TxDOT to advocate for the Houston region's fair share of the funds; I'll keep you updated on the progress. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this critical funding issue, feel free to contact me.

D A Vogt Engineering Joins NHA

D A Vogt Engineering, a civil engineering consulting firm, joined the North Houston Association in the fourth quarter of 2001.

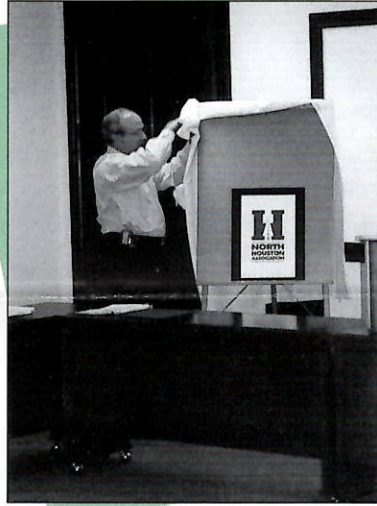
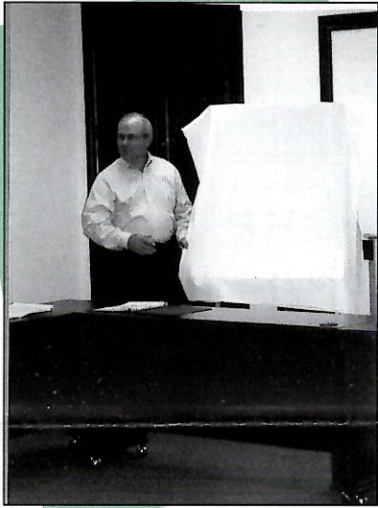
The firm is well experienced in the design of various infrastructure elements in the development of land from raw to building ready. Those elements include roadways for access, storm water drainage and flood protection, wastewater collection and treatment and water production and distribution. Ancillary to the basic infrastructure needs, Vogt Engineering helped to coordinate dry utilities ranging from gas and electric to cable TV and security sys-

tems. Most of these infrastructure elements are applicable to all projects, even to single-user commercial site developments. Larger projects, such as cities and Municipal Utility Districts encompass all elements including basic environmental issues.

Practicing civil engineering in a region of some of the highest rainfall amounts in the country, drainage is always a major element of a project regardless of project size. Complexity varies with the specific watershed and capacity of the storm water run-off conveyance system for that watershed. The complexity of drainage

design elements is independent of the size of the project. Conversely, water distribution and wastewater collection are basic elements of every size project, but complexity is closely related to the size of that project. Wastewater and water production are elements of major municipal projects and seldom included in single user site developments.

Firm projects include: Hunters Landing, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion Expansion, Town Center 1 & 2, Riverway Plaza One, Grand Oaks, and The Woodlands Hotel and Conference Center.



Retreat

(continued from page one)

The Business Issues Committee Chairman, Joe Zimmerman, Eco Resources, Inc., stated that the committee was in essence a "watchdog" for the Association, keeping an eye on issues that either improve or impede quality of life for the north Houston region.

He said the committee's goals include identifying regional issues, serving as the legislative point of contact for NHA members, and meeting with city, county and federal elected officials and agencies to examine and understand regional issues from all aspects. The committee will work toward educating and informing members and developing expert forums on key issues.

Committee chairmen, board members and staff received an update during lunch on

the pending Compaq/Hewlett Packard merger by Chase Untermeyer, of Compaq.

In his comments, Untermeyer recognized the importance of a diverse economy, and speculated that at least a portion of Compaq's current campus in northwest Houston will continue to be utilized following the merger.

During the year-end wrap-up, it was reported that the Association accomplished a number of goals, including increasing the number of events. NHA hosted six luncheons, four breakfasts and two receptions with an average attendance of 150 individuals. Other accomplishments include increased media coverage and improvements in both the accounting and computer systems.



NHA Supports Bond Elections

The North Houston Association's Board of Directors passed resolutions in support of three bond elections: Harris County, Montgomery County and the city of Houston. All three bond elections were passed by voters in the November election.

NHA cited continued growth and development of the area as primary reasons for its support.

"Each of the bond referendums has funds set aside for infrastructure improvements, which are necessary for north Houston to continue to provide amenities for its residents, employees and businesses," said Senator Jon Lindsay, NHA president. "We all know firsthand how critical high-quality roads, bridges and storm drainage control are to the continued growth and economic development of the area, not to mention continued safety."

"...Harris County is asking voters to approve a bond election on November 6th to finance these infrastructure improvements, and such improvements will ultimately improve mobility and ease the commutes of Harris County residents and workers," reads the resolution supporting the Harris County election.

The resolution in support of the city's bond election specifically noted improvements for police and fire facilities, parks and recreational facilities, general public improvements, library improvements and affordable housing bonds, in addition to infrastructure improvements that include roads and bridges.

The Montgomery County bond election resolution highlighted the link between high-quality infrastructure and continued growth and economic development.

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BPA Introduces Mapping Site

The Bayou Preservation Association (BPA), the oldest environmental organization in Houston, has developed an internet mapping site for Harris County bayous which includes its own stream ranking system. The web site is www.bayoupreservation.org and contains a wealth of information for teachers, architects, engineers, real estate agents, developers, professors, students and interested individuals.

By clicking on the Bayou Information Center Maps icon on the website, the following information is available:

- Watersheds
- Stream and bayou information
- Floodplains

- Topographic maps
- Aerial photos
- Bayou photos
- City and county boundaries
- Elected officials
- Links to sites that provide water quality and hazardous waste site information.

Individuals of all levels can use the data and maps to better understand their watersheds and bayous for project development, habitats, preservation, flood protection, school and research projects. The BPA is continuing to develop the site and is anxious to receive comments. Contact the BPA at pba@hic.net.

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