

**SYSTEMATIC NEIGHBORHOOD OBSERVATION TOOLS
AND
BUILDING A HEALTHY URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

**INTERVIEWS WITH KEY INFORMANTS
GALVESTON, TEXAS**

PRESENTED BY

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Summary –Biggest Opportunities

This is a brief list of the major recommendations from this report. There are other recommendations in the body of the text. Specific details about each recommendation are contained within the report.

- Work with Galveston County Parks on two projects: (1) formulating neighborhood assessment questions to go into a county-wide survey to begin in 2010 that will cover Galveston Island; (2) create recommendations and a guide for the National Parks and Recreation Association on physical activity and obesity.
- Get a seat on the City’s Master Neighborhood Planning effort to help formulate what will go into the plan.
- Help Kathy Tiernan’s group, Galveston Families, Children and Youth Board, to select the next Renaissance Zone and incorporate a healthy urban development assessment tool into their neighborhood survey process.
- With the help of Kathy Tiernan and Linda Callahan hold an orientation and training on the healthy urban development observation tools that will include the police, assistant city manager, Planning department, and Code enforcement personnel. Discuss how this can be incorporated into their work if neighborhoods begin to use the tools and how they might respond to the data or information from neighborhood groups.

Introduction

This report examines systematic neighborhood observation tools and provides information on interviews with key informants to help identify opportunities for action to further objectives of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), Center to Eliminate Health Disparities. The two primary objectives are to build awareness around the concepts of healthy urban development and “*health in all policies*”. The goal is to increase the capacity of Galveston’s systems, institutions, and civil society to address the social determinants of health inequalities.

The individuals interviewed had heard about the Center’s interests before the interviews or been given some information prior to the interview in other meetings.

Recommendations or opportunities for action are underlined and listed throughout the report.

Interviews were conducted with the following six individuals:

- Dennis Harris Director, Galveston County Parks and Senior Services Department
- Lori Schwartz, Planning Division Head/Historic Preservation Officer, City of Galveston Department of Planning and Community Development
- Linda Callahan, President, Galveston Alliance of Island Neighborhoods
- Kathy Tiernan, Chair, City of Galveston Families, Children and Youth Board
- Mark Guidry, MD, Director Galveston County Health Department
- Dana Wiltz-Beckham, DVM, Chief Epidemiologist/Veterinary Consultant, Galveston County Health District

Background: Systematic Social Observation

Neighborhood research, with its origins in sociology of crime research, has been growing over the past two decades across the social sciences, and in public health. There is currently no consensus on which measures and data source researchers should use to assess neighborhood attributes.¹ In the past, the measures have relied on census data and household surveys to assess neighborhood condition.

Neighborhood observations, as juxtaposed against secondary data, i.e., census data, have become a popular alternative method for characterizing neighborhood environments. The value in observations over census data are: That census tract may or may not represent the neighborhood boundaries as residents define them; the relevance of data collected every ten years; and the limited compositional characteristics that are highlighted including economic and housing stock versus (contextual issues) the social nature of the community, social civilities or incivilities, people loitering or socializing, people arguing, or physical aspects including cleanliness, safety.

¹ Examining methodological details of neighborhood observations and the relationship to health: A literature review. *Social Science & Medicine*, In Press, Corrected Proof, Available online 31 October 2009, Nicole Schaefer-McDaniel, Margaret O'Brien Caughy, Patricia O'Campo and Wayne Gearey

Unique neighborhood information obtained through direct observation is distinct from that of traditionally used census data.² The indicators for incivilities, territoriality and social spaces may be used to estimate neighborhood deterioration, upkeep or resident investment. Census variables can not replicate the information provided by these scales. Further, Laraia et al., (2006) suggests that the theoretically informed scales evoke a mechanism regarding how neighborhoods can influence health outcomes.

The inadequacy of using poverty as a surrogate for neighborhood dynamics is due to heterogeneity across low-income neighborhoods with regards to disadvantage, crime, and resources, as has been observed in previous studies. In a study of neighborhood effects on gonorrhea rates in New Orleans, LA, Cohen et al. found that a "Broken Windows" index – a directly observed measure combining housing condition, graffiti, accumulated garbage, abandoned vehicles and public high schools with problems – distinguished among low-income neighborhoods. Low-income, low broken windows indexed neighborhoods had significantly lower gonorrhea rates than low-income, high broken windows indexed neighborhoods. These illustrations show the importance of using directly observed data in combination with census or other administrative data; geo-referenced data such as parks, commerce, schools, zoning, alcohol outlets, and crime data; and perceived neighborhood environment data, to provide a rich picture of neighborhoods and their attributes, with minimal investment of time and expense, and to better understand mechanisms of neighborhood influences on health.³

Observations have become an important method to use in assessing neighborhoods and may often be referred to as *systematic social observation* (SSO).⁴ Methods have included: observations by residents that have been trained and are accompanied or not by researchers; observations by outsiders who rate the neighborhood after conducting interviews with residents; making videotapes while driving and coding them later; checklists coding while walking; During the observation a checklist is employed to observe and rate neighborhoods on a number of conditions such as physical (e.g., traffic

² Direct observation of neighborhood attributes in an urban area of the US south: characterizing the social context of pregnancy. Laraia BA, Messer L, Kaufman JS, Dole N, Caughy M, O'Campo P, Savitz DA *Int J Health Geogr* 2006, 5:11

³ Laraia et al., (2006)

⁴ Schaefer-McDaniel, N. et al., (2009) pg. 2.

volume, housing conditions, street and sidewalk safety) and social (e.g., presence of people, trust, voting, gang activity) attributes.

Neighborhood observations raise methodological issues including who to interview using length of residence as a factor and possibly age. A study from Schaefer-McDaniel, N. et al., (2009) examining SSO published studies from 1987 to 2007 indicates that the range of SSO tools employed comprised between five and 241 items. More common tools included:

- the Irvine-Minnesota Inventory to Measure Built Environments
- Neighborhood Attributes Inventory
- Chicago Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN)⁵
- Neighborhood Active Living Potential (NALP)
- Active Neighborhood Checklist
- Block Environment Inventory
- Systematic Pedestrian and Cycling Environmental Scan (SPACES)
- Healthy Environments Partnership's Neighborhood Observational Checklist (NOC)
- Pedestrian Environmental Data Scan (PEDS),
- Residential Environment Assessment Tool (REAT)
- Neighborhood Inventory for Environmental Typology (NifETy)
- Flint Environmental Block Assessment
- Walkability and Biking Suitability Assessment (WABSA) form
- Built environment Site Survey Checklist (BESSC)

Interviews

⁵ The Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) is an interdisciplinary study of how families, schools, and neighborhoods affect child and adolescent development. It was designed to advance the understanding of the developmental pathways of both positive and negative human social behaviors. In particular, the Project examined the pathways to juvenile delinquency, adult crime, substance abuse, and violence. At the same time, the Project also provided a detailed look at the environments in which these social behaviors take place by collecting substantial amounts of data about urban Chicago, including its people, institutions, and resources.

Dennis Harris Director, Galveston County Parks and Senior Services

Within Galveston County there exist several entities with responsibility for parks and beaches. The City of Galveston has a parks director (Barbara Sanderson). The City also has a Parks Board that has oversight for the beaches. Finally, the County of Galveston has a parks department that oversees parks in the jurisdictions that belong to Galveston County. This report details an interview with the Galveston County parks director only.

The Galveston County parks director is updating his ten year plan. It will cover the entire county and include Galveston Island. The revised plan will create an updated inventory of park facilities/amenities, identify potential property to acquire for the purpose of future public parks opportunities for conservation (natural resources), and meet some Texas Parks & Wildlife requirements. This will help the County parks system secure future grants.

Mr. Harris anticipates having a marketing-research firm selected in January, 2010. The updating of the plan will take about 8 to 12 months to complete. Commissioners' Court will adopt the plan

The process will incorporate informational interviews with residents. The format for the interviews is still undecided but may include focus groups, a telephone survey, town hall meetings, or exit interviews.⁶

This could be a good chance to collect data from Galveston Island residents regarding their perceptions of community-neighborhood conditions. Mr. Harris may be willing to have questions added to his survey if they collect information that can help the County design its strategies. He will be meeting with different individuals to discuss what might go into the survey.

⁶ Exit interviews are brief surveys of people as they leave park facilities and grounds. In the last plan only focus groups and a phone surveys were utilized.

The HDMT tool, in one section, asks questions about restoring, preserving and protecting healthy natural habitats. The tool provides standards that a community might use to measure this element of the community. It can be found at

<http://www.thehdmt.org/objectives/view/2>

At issue is that the HDMT standards appear to be questions (see below) that you might ask of the County's plans or that a citizens group might use to assess park efforts to preserve and restore natural environments. The HDMT questions do not appear to be questions that County parks would pose to citizens as the County parks department tries to determine how the citizenry views the efforts, programs, and goals of the department.

1. Does the project use porous pavement materials on drives, sidewalks, parking lots and plazas? **AND** apply the "SFPUC Stormwater Design Guidelines"?
2. Does the project provide a continuous row of appropriately spaced trees at all streets adjacent to the project?
3. Is the project located at a distance greater than 100 feet from existing shorelines of water bodies--seas, lakes, rivers, streams and tributaries--and wetlands?

Consider using another social observation tool to gather information on the County park's assessment-survey.

For the next year, Dennis Harris is heading up a special project for the Minority and Ethnic Leadership Society of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The charge for the initiative is to develop a platform on obesity for urban parks.

Harris is considering developing an informational paper on affordable access to parks and opportunities for recreation. This could be an ideal collaborative partnership project for the Texas Commission on health disparities, UTMB and NRPA.

Lori Schwartz, Planning Division Head/Historic Preservation Officer, City of Galveston Department of Planning and Community Development

The Comprehensive Plan for Galveston Island was developed and adopted in 2001. The City requires the Comprehensive Plan to be updated every five years. Before Hurricane Ike the City was updating the Plan. City Planning is currently trying to incorporate into the Plan what was done before the storm and post-storm.

A thirty-member committee called the *Comprehensive Plan Update Committee* is working on the updated Plan. The official Planning Commission is different and they only have a representative on the Update committee. The representative is Willie Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez is a native, local musician, and business man. A listing of committee members is below. A list of the members of both committees is below.

Prior to Hurricane Ike the City Planning and Community Development Department (PCD) had completed 2nd and 3rd drafts of the various comprehensive plan elements. They were planning to take the revised Plan to the Planning Commission and City Council for review. The storm put everything on hold.

PCD has now contacted all the Comprehensive Plan members to determine who can still participate in finalizing the process. They lost several members due to various issues. The chairman and the subcommittee chairs have made some recommendations to fill in gaps left by these people. These recommendations will go to City Council in December.

With post storm conditions PCD has also needed to make changes in the Plan. They expect to look at and expand the disaster planning element based on experience. A lot of environmental issues subject to the Texas General Land Office and coastal construction have changed post storm. PCD is integrating the appropriate projects from the Galveston long term recovery plan into the Comprehensive Plan.

PCD is also receiving CDBG recovery funds in December for planning. This includes some funding to help finalize the Comp Plan. They are still determining

process, timing, etc. for how this (CDBG effort) may integrate with the Comp Plan process.

Further, a proposed land use map is called for in the Comp Plan. PCD will proceed with that project under CDBG recovery funding. The land use map requires GIS mapping of current land uses (not mapped) and future/proposed land uses that reflects the goals of the Comp Plan. The land use map will act as a guide to help make future land use decisions. Upon completion of the Comp Plan, PCD will have to go through a public input process to determine if they have accurately reflected the will of the community.

Lori Schwarz has taken the online version of the NACCHO –APA training on health impact assessments (HIA). PCD did not do the training in partnership with the Galveston Health Department. The HIA training covered planning for healthy places with HIA

Highlights from the HIA training for Schwarz included mapping locations of certain facilities to examine issues of proximity and access to grocery stores, local churches, schools, pedestrian modes, and safe access for people. Schwarz expressed an interest in creating projects based on this training.

Recommendation: Conduct HIA training (using HDMT) with personnel from Galveston County Health Department and PCD. Create an actual case study to use in the training or have them create one jointly

In October 2009 the city staff recommended a management firm to over see all housing recovery funds (CDBG money). The CDBG funds in the amount of \$170 million are to be used for plans from the long term recovery plan, a housing market study, and a master neighborhood plan to be done by PCD in the next year.

The master neighborhood plan will apply to 22 neighborhoods. PCD plans to start meeting with neighborhoods while the housing market study is being conducted. Secure a seat or role during the neighborhood meetings that PCD will have for its master neighborhood planning process.

The housing market study may be both a component of the master neighborhood plan and provide some recommendations for stabilizing each neighborhood, i.e., some neighborhoods may need infill or grocery stores such as on the east side of the island. Schwarz says the Neighborhood Master Plan may go into the Comprehensive Plan as an appendix.

The Planning Commission is thought to be moderate in its approach to restrictions on development. The members tend to be more concerned about or interested in environmental issue and quality design.

Planning Commission and Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

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Kathy Tiernan, Chair, City of Galveston Families, Children and Youth Board⁷

Kathy Tiernan has been with the City of Galveston Families, Children and Youth Board since it was established by city ordinance in 2001. The Board's purpose is broad. They are to create a conduit to have community input with city staff and council on plans and efforts to improve the quality of life of Galveston.

The community nominates members to the Board and nominees fill out an application and submit it to the City. The application is reviewed for residency status and city council appoints the members of the Board.

⁷ Tiernan asked to reviewed her interview notes. She sent back edits to be used in the report.

The Board is organized through several task forces- 1)city infrastructure, 2)- health and safety task force (sponsor school wide health fairs); 3) an education committee, i.e., this year the education task force looked at recovery committee recommendations to create community learning centers) -; 4) youth leadership development; and, 5) substance abuse reduction.

In past years Tiernan developed a planning tracking system for the Board called a "Blueprint". The Blueprint tracks activities and outcomes. Meet with Kathy Tiernan to review the current Blueprint.

There are 20 individuals on the Board and this includes three youth positions. The Board utilizes community consultants. These positions are not on the Board and they may serve on a task force or chair a task force. By law all meetings are open to the public with a posted agenda. The City council representative is CM Dr. Linda Colbert. Barbara Sanderson, Director of Parks and Recreation, is the assigned staff person.

Tiernan reports that City Parks has "worked hard to bring some equity to Island parks". According to Tiernan, Galveston k-12 schools have city parks affiliated with them. There is typically confusion about who does maintenance and upkeep of these parks. The City and the school district have worked on ownership problems and improvements that would make parks equal across city;

The Board adopted a "Renaissance Zone" approach in their first year of operation. There are five zones so far. They created the Zones by consulting with school districts to select an at risk elementary schools (school performance rating by state -TEA) and then going four blocks in all directions so that the 81 block square was called the Zone. They stay in each zone for one year.

All of the task forces had at least one activity and usually more in the Zone but also supported activities for the city at large. An annual activity in the Zone is a neighborhood

block survey. The methodology for the survey uses two people with a map of the block and the survey questionnaire that documents the conditions of curbs, sidewalks, drainage, signage, debris, and obstructions, e.g., what needs to be replaced or repaired.

Tiernan explained that they provide an orientation and let neighbors do the survey. She estimates that it takes about thirty minutes per block and they generally complete 30 blocks in the interior of the zone.

Results from the survey are given back to the Board. Tiernan says they summarize the data and observations into tables for the City Grants Department. Historically monies are identified from CDBG funds (Community Development Block Grant) to make repairs.

The Board has committed to Central zone where Central Middle School is located- at 31st and Sealy. The kids are not there right now but they will work with the children while they are at Weis School. For example, the education task force will coordinate the BESTT mentoring program (Bridging the Educational Scene for Teachers of Tomorrow) using Ball high students to mentor and practice teaching read with the Central kids.

The Board and residents did the observational survey in Central neighborhood but improvements have not been done. The Block grant money has now gone to housing and Tiernan does not know where the city will get funds for infrastructure, i.e., money typically used is now used for restoring housing.

They –the Board- plan to work with the Central Zone to complete infrastructure changes already identified before the storm, i.e., completing signage, street marking, fixing drainage problems. They expect to improve and make the area better when kids and families come back north of Broadway

Tiernan says their major focus this year is to support the City police effort to initiate community policing. Police department has divided city into four areas or regions. Tiernan says they are working with GAIN (Galveston Alliance of Island Neighborhoods)

who is helping neighborhoods to get organized and create neighborhood associations- and set up neighborhood watch programs.

Tiernan said the biggest issues for Galveston right now are safety and security, i.e., strangers in town, houses are empty, and neighborhoods are in flux. Other issues include: 1) policing, 2) supporting schools, 3) rebuilding infrastructure around schools, 4) efforts to select Zones and pick neighborhoods where schools are their focus, 5) safe access to schools coming and going, 6) finding neighborhoods where schools are starting with elementary schools, and 7) reducing and eliminating drug sales before, during, and after school.

Tiernan says an annual report of their work is filed with the City each year. Key groups and individuals that the Board works with are:

- BJ Herz –was the energy that helped the city create Board.
- GISD
- Galveston Youth community Development program Carol Chiarez - state money- cover 77550 zip code east end of Galveston
- NIA cultural center boy's rites of passage

Mark Guidry, MD, Director Galveston County Health Department (GCHD)

At his request, questions were submitted to Dr. Guidry before the interview (list provided below).

Dr. Guidry's focus on Galveston is from a traditional public health stand point. Within the last two years, using the PBS film series, *Unnatural Causes*, he has made sure that his staff –mostly senior administrators- understand the SDOH. However, the interests, resources, and priorities of GCHD are devoted to providing basic public health services.

The biggest problems for Galveston as identified by Dr. Guidry include sexually transmitted diseases and chronic diseases. When asked about specific neighborhoods that

might “stick out in his mind” he said that most of those had been abandoned and/or were not being repopulated due to the public housing issues on the Island post-hurricane.

He referred me to several members of his staff to get specific details about GCHD and neighborhood work on the Island and recovery activities. Kurt Koopmann, the public information officer for GCHD was on the recovery committee. Two nurses that report to Dr. Cassandra Arceneaux have attended Renaissance Zone meetings in the past.

Koopmann attended Recovery Committee community meetings and a couple of community open houses. The specific committee he worked with was looking at health care and social service needs. He says the meetings were seeking input from residents on needs. At these gatherings he let them know GCHD had information available. He reports never having received any requests.

Koopmann reported that GCHD’s Dr. Beckham collected information post hurricane to help determine needs and devise a plan to respond.

Questions for Dr. Guidry

1. What specific plans do you have for the City of Galveston?
2. What are the biggest issues for Galveston?
3. Do any particular Galveston neighborhoods stick out in your mind and why?
4. Have you had any input on the Galveston comprehensive plan?
5. Have you had any input on the rebuilding plan or efforts?
6. If yes, please describe how.
7. Are you able to share copies of what was submitted?
8. With whom do you work with in Galveston?-- Identify city officials, community leaders, organized groups
9. Describe how you work with these groups-individuals- the issues or projects
10. What would you like to see improve in Galveston to make the job of the health department easier?
11. Describe the factors (people, organizations, characteristics, systems, networks) in Galveston that make it easy to get some thing done.

Dana Wiltz-Beckham, DVM, Chief Epidemiologist/Veterinary Consultant, (GCHD)

It was reported by the State that local health authorities (GCHD) requested a community public health assessment on Galveston Island, specifically that segment east of Scholes Field (Airport). This area of concern included 1,736 census blocks, with 27,071 housing units and a population of 54, 656 according to the U.S. Census 2000.

On September 30th post hurricane DSHS and other federal agencies came to Galveston County to assist the Health District with the assessment. Dr. Beckham had a rapid needs assessment (RNA) tool for use but instead of conducting an RNA post Hurricane Ike, the group conducted a community assessment for public health emergency response (CASPER)⁸.

A one-page data collection instrument was developed for the CASPER on site in coordination with the state epidemiologist, as well as the assessment teams, the CDC, and local officials. It included questions about access to basic utilities, and hurricane-associated injuries, illnesses, medical care, hurricane related communications, structural damage to the residence, perceptions of security and safety, and generator use.⁹

Survey teams were trained by CDC personnel on September 22-23, 2008. Data collection was conducted on September 30, 2008 by 10 two-person teams that consisted of one member of DSHS and one member of APHT (Applied Public Health Team). Each two-person team attempted to complete 21 interviews from 26 census blocks sampled, for a total of 210 interviews. Preliminary results were analyzed using EpiInfo 3.5.1.

⁸ The Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER), also referred to as Rapid Need Assessment (RNA), or Rapid Epidemiologic Assessment (REA), and Rapid Health Assessment (RHA), is meant to assist public health practitioners and emergency management officials in determining the health status and basic needs of an affected community. Gathering information about health and basic need data by using valid statistical methods allows public health and emergency managers to prioritize their responses and to rationalize the distribution of resources.

⁹ An electronic PDF of the instrument is available.

The CASPER covered thirty census blocks selected randomly. GIS tools and U.S. Census data were employed to randomly select certain areas of the communities and certain households within these areas to interview. They also created maps to guide the teams to their assigned areas.

Interviewers were instructed to select the first house unit to be interviewed using a random number generator sheet. Additionally, the interviewers also completed confidential referral forms whenever they encountered urgent needs. (Twenty one such referrals were forwarded to the Texas Department of State Health Services, and then given to local health authorities emergency officials.)

GCHD used the results to educate local emergency and elected officials of the health hazards related to lack of basic utilities and medical care in the community following the hurricane. The assessment provided insight into citizens' concerns which the Health District used in answering questions received at the local phone bank as well as the development of a one page flyer to address community issues.

The flyer consisted of quick reference information (which included contact numbers) such as medical care sources, utilities, vaccination sites, transportation, mosquito prevention techniques, garbage collection, mold prevention, safety guidelines for use of generator or charcoal/gas grills, and local municipality services.

Volunteers were recruited to disseminate 6000 flyers door to door and at point of dispensing sites throughout the island. The outreach volunteers reported that residents were appreciative of the outreach conducted because they were not aware of the services available to them and it provided helpful health information.

Linda Callahan, President, Galveston Alliance of Island Neighborhoods

Linda is president of the Galveston Alliance of Island Neighborhoods (GAIN). They primarily focus on code enforcement.¹⁰ The current mayor was one of the founders in about 1999. Linda has been working with GAIN for over 4 years. Her role as president has covered two years and ends in mid-January 2010. The president-elect is Ralph McMorris. Ralph is the current VP and President- elec. He lives in the east end. Linda is in the silk stocking district- both historic districts.

Meet with Linda and Ralph immediately to get a relationship established with the incoming President and continue to build a relationship with Linda.

GAIN functions with each neighborhood having a representative and an alternate to serve on the alliance. They have two monthly meetings. The regular monthly meetings are the third Thursday of the month with a full agenda at 5:30 p.m. (Moody Mansion lower level). The monthly City Manager meetings at City Hall are with the Asst. City Manager (Lloyd Rinderer) and are attended by interested parties. Discussion centers on infrastructure and code compliance and issues/tasks that the City may ask GAIN to participate in such as the upcoming Census. Both meetings are always open to the public.

GAIN has a president, VP president-elect, secretary, and treasurer. Each neighborhood has one vote. GAIN does not necessarily have committees. Code enforcement issues are handled by the treasurer and Linda. The members and elected leaders of GAIN serve on various external committees. The VP has been active on the issue of public housing.

¹⁰ Code enforcement may regulate codes regarding things such as garage sales, lawn care issues, signs and banners displayed in public, parking matters, garbage disposal, home businesses, trash or snow removal, electrical outlets, housing and traffic issues including oversized vehicles, abandoned vehicles. Different counties, cities and states have various codes and regulations. These codes regulate matters related to public safety, zoning matters, public commerce, city cleanliness, public advertisements and displays, vehicular issues and environmental matters. What is legal and acceptable in one city may be a code violation in another. Code enforcement is intended to ensure the acceptable quality of living environments in neighborhoods and communities is maintained.

In n regular monthly meetings GAIN has city staff present- including code enforcement, planning, grants, and housing. They have special guests such as the police chief, the assistant city manger of public works. Linda says they do not work closely with City parks.

Generally, individual neighborhood associations meet monthly and have a board. Attendance varies at other association meetings. For instance Linda's neighborhood meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month and it is just their board. Another neighborhood San Jacinto has a lot of attendance from their residents.

GAIN has a subcommittee on public housing. Since this interview with Linda in October they should have approved or not approved the public housing plan. Linda reported that they favor mixed use, scattered site housing similar to a plan in Dallas where there is mixed use. They are also following code enforcement with regard to the safety of abandoned and derelict homes.

Linda reports that GAIN is particularly interested in working with other neighborhoods to establish associations. Note that Kathy Tiernan's group will be working on this effort also. This could be an entre to working with both groups by teaching them the HDMT or some observation tool that they could introduce and incorporate into their process. A word of caution—teaching groups to use the assessment tools could lead to an increase in requests and demands on City resources. It is wise to discuss this with Linda and Kathy and ask if the Assistant city manger, police contacts and code enforcement people could be briefed that this will occur and ask how it can be managed to help them.

GAIN's target neighborhoods right now are Lasker Park and Old Central Carver Park. Linda reported that they are large neighborhoods that should be represented. Lasker Park has around 2,000 homes.

GAIN is also interested in Hollywood Heights, Bayou Shores, and Cohen neighborhood. These three neighborhoods are a high priority with the housing subgroup of the Recovery

Committee which is focused on rehabbing houses. These neighborhoods need assistance to recover.

GAIN cannot go to the three neighborhoods now until more recovery work is done...many of these homes are still not occupied and the first priority is rehab.

GAIN works closely with Assistant City Manager, Lloyd Rinderer, Alicia Cahill (public information); Catherine Tinnemeyer and Lori Schwartz (Planning); Alice Law (Grants & Housing), Debbie Stark and Ron Penn (Code enforcement); Lt. Trevinio -police
The two Council Members that GAIN has worked closely with on issues during the two years have been Linda Colbert and Elizabeth Beeton.

Galveston Neighborhood Associations

Linda provided a list of neighborhood associations or neighborhoods as they categorize them. GAIN defines a neighborhood association as one that has members, bylaws, regular meetings, and officers. This designation is different from the official list of 22 neighborhoods assigned by the City. Among the 22 official neighborhoods there may be several neighborhood associations.

Maps from GAIN and the City displaying official neighborhoods and neighborhood associations were sent in emails the week of November 16th, 2009. To derive the GAIN map Linda did windshield surveys and worked with the police department, real estate agents, and an architect. The GAIN map says the boundaries are approximate.

GAIN has 20 members and 2 that have not yet renewed.

Neighborhoods that do not have associations

1. Lindale Park (Fish Village)
2. San Marino
3. Beachtown (it is my guess the city is counting this as a neighborhood)
4. Cornerstone (public housing)

5. Old Central Carver Park (working with contacts on re-forming assn.)
6. Oaks (public housing)
7. Lasker Park (working with contacts on forming association)
8. Bayou Shores
9. Palm Circle
10. Bird Streets
11. Robert Cohen
12. Back Bay
13. Barton Square
14. Hollywood Heights
15. Golfcrest
16. Tree Streets
17. College Streets
18. Channelview/Crashboat
19. Teichman Point
20. Campeche Shores

Neighborhoods that have neighborhood associations that are not members of GAIN

1. University Area has been on GAIN roster but has not yet renewed
2. Texas Heroes (Palm Gardens)has been on GAIN roster but has not yet renewed
3. Evia

Neighborhood Associations on GAIN member roster

1. East End Historical District
2. Historic Downtown Galveston Partnership
3. San Jacinto
4. Silk Stocking
5. Kempner Park

6. Ft. Crockett
7. Denver Court
8. Cedar Lawn
9. English Bayou
10. Adler Circle
11. Driftwood
12. Colony Park
13. Havre LaFitte
14. Crash Boat Basin
15. Crashboat
16. Campeche Cove
 - GAIN has four members from the West End: Bay Harbor, LaFitte's Cove, Sea Isle, Spanish Grant
 - WGIPOA – West Galveston Island Property Owners Association is also a GAIN member: this is the organization with members on West End of island. However, some of their members are members of ours as well.