



Ghent Neighborhood League

Wednesday, February 17th 6:30PM
Zoom Virtual Meeting

I. Call to order and introductions at 6:30 PM

II. Guest Speakers

- **Safety Report** – Community Resource Officer Samantha Fentress
- **Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST) Update**
 - Jordan R. N. Brown, FPC Nest and Urban Renewal Center Director
- **HRSD and City of Norfolk Water Billing**
 - Edward G. Henifin, General Manager, HRSD

III. President's Updates

- Membership Renewals
- Upcoming Officer Elections
- By-Law Updates

IV. Committee Reports

IV. Approval of Minutes

VI. New Business/Announcements

Next Meeting: Next meeting is March 17th at 6:30PM.

News You Can Use

- Puddles got you down? Let it all out by participating in the [GNL Flooding Survey](#).
- We need your help this Sunday from 1PM-3PM! [Click here to RSVP for our neighborhood cleanup event](#).
- Elections are coming up! [Click here to Join or Renew your GNL Membership](#).
- Any issue with trash, neighborhood nuisances, or any city service should be reported to Norfolk Cares using one of the below channels.
 - [Request a Service using MyNorfolk website \(mynorfolk.org\) or app](#)
 - Call 757-664-6510

Ghent Neighborhood League Minutes

January 20, 2021

Next Meeting: February 17, 2021, 6:30 PM, Zoom

Special Guests:

Short Term Rental – Jeremy Sharp, Zoning Administrator, Craig Banks and Eric Dodd, Waste Management Inspectors, City of Norfolk

Ghent Business Association, Farmers Market – Tom Cannone, President, Robyn Thomas, Board Member, and Lori Golding Zontini, Farmers Market Manager

I. Call to order and introductions

President Jeremy McGee called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Board members present: Catherine Kilduff, Nat McCormick, Paige Rose, Bob Kelly, Jean Webster, George Kello, Karen Reynes, Julie Findlay, Larry Brett, JR Montalvo

Absent: None

I. Safety Report – Community Resources Officer (CRO) Samantha Fentress

- Fewer larcenies in Ghent in 2020, year-on-year. Probably some of this is due to working from home and receiving packages at home.
- Larcenies from buildings, from autos, and stolen autos were also down.
- Elderly woman assaulted outside her car on 21st, 200 block. They identified a suspect and the victim secured charges against him.
- Some complaints about homeless people's things on the side of 19th St. The police are standing down currently. The City could be trying to coordinate relocation services, but Officer Fentress wasn't given additional information.
- If your car registrations are past due, please fix it. West Ghent cars have been getting notices on the windshield.

Guest Speakers:

II. Short Term Rental Enforcement and Update on Issues

Jeremy Sharp, Zoning Administrator, City of Norfolk

- There have been no changes in regulations specific to Ghent.
- New enforcement rules allow the City to fine operators that they have trouble reaching. They haven't used it because no one has been in the pipeline long enough yet.
- There is an operator on the 300 block of Fairfax Ave., who was served in court.
- On the 400 block of Fairfax the AirBnb is offered for 30-day minimum, which is legal.
- The process requires a 30-day notice, a 10-day notice, then a warrant. Once served, then they show up in court. So at a minimum, a January offense might have a March court date.

- The new process allows a fine, up to \$400. The process is the same: a 30-day notice, 10-day notice, then a summons.
- They monitor the listings, so as soon as a case pops up, they send a letter.
- Call the Community Resources Officer (Officer Fentress) if there's a noise disturbance, a car parked on the grass, narcotics paraphernalia, etc. so that they can take a picture as evidence for court. But the illegal operation of rentals is not Officer Fentress's jurisdiction. She can't do anything about trash being out on the wrong day, for example.
- Renovations often require permits; Jeremy Sharp checks when those permits are given to ensure that the recipient understand the short-term rental rules. That said, renovations without new mechanical, new walls, etc. don't require permits.

Craig Banks and Eric Dodd, Waste Management Inspectors, City of Norfolk

- There is a problem with people requesting bulk waste pickup through the internet, <https://www.mynorfolk.org/>, but not waiting for the confirmation. Then the residents put the waste out, but the drivers don't have it on the list. If you have entered it properly, you will get a confirmation email telling you when to put the waste out.
- Leaves must be in clear bags to be picked up. The limit is 20 bags per household. Leaves in piles, without a bag, will not be picked up.

III. Ghent Business Association – Presentation on Ghent Farmers Market

Tom Cannone, President, Ghent Business Association

Robyn Thomas, Board Member, Ghent Business Association

Lori Golding Zontini, Farmers Market Manager, Ghent Business Association

Email: ghentfarmersmarketnfk@gmail.com

- Hours: 4-7 pm, First and Third Fridays, from April to September.
- Volunteers will be needed, eight people per shift (half the duration of the market). Thank you to Officer Fentress for volunteering!
- To be safe, they are not doing tastings or entertainment yet. But after the pandemic they have committed to involving kids from Blair. The goal is to create community. They are open to working with other groups after the pandemic.
- Media hits: WTKR (<https://www.wtkr.com/news/good-news/farmers-market-coming-to-ghent-area-of-norfolk-in-2021>)
13News (<https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/local/mycity/norfolk/new-farmers-market-coming-to-heart-of-norfolks-ghent-district-in-2021/291-0c72a4ea-4d88-4643-89b2-8c58789a0ae1>)

IV. President's Report:

- Membership renewals: Keep an eye out for an email for membership renewals. If you paid for last year, and then fees were waived, we will apply it to this year's dues.

- Upcoming Officer Elections: Please think about whether you would like to serve or recommend someone to serve on the Ghent Neighborhood League board.
- By-Law Updates: Please be aware that revisions are on the way. Stay tuned.

V. Committee Updates

- Community Improvement, Paige Rose: We have February and April cleanup and beautification events upcoming.
- Flood Mitigation: Please participate in the survey to prioritize mitigation actions. Look for more information in the February newsletter.

VI. Approval of Minutes

- Julie Findlay moved to approve the November 2020 membership meeting and January 17, 2021 Board meeting minutes. There was a second for the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.