



# Ghent Neighborhood League

Wednesday, October 20th 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
- **New “Inn” Use in Ghent** – Joy Kelling, Planner 1, City of Norfolk - [Details](#)
- **The Woman’s Club of Norfolk** – Details from the Women’s Club on how events are successfully executed within the neighborhood.

## III. Committee Reports

- **Street Lights** – Outages must be reported directly to Dominion Energy either through their toll free number at 1-866-366-4357 or by [clicking this link](#).
- [October Quarterly Membership Newsletter](#)

## IV. Upcoming Member Meetings

- November – Private tour of the Chrysler! [Click Here to Sign Up](#).

## V. Approval of Minutes

## VI. New Business/Announcements

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting is November 17th at 6:30PM at the Chrysler Museum

## News You Can Use

- [2021 Halloween Guidelines from City of Norfolk and VDH](#)
- NFK Currents Email Newsletter has a great summary of local news and events. [Click here for the latest issue](#) and to subscribe.
- The City of Norfolk has launched a [new flood risk tool](#).
- [Interested in history of various Norfolk historic properties? Check our Lawrence Morton’s map of insights.](#)
- 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 MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

**Call to order and introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy McGee promptly at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Board members present: Jeremy McGee , Jean Webster, JR Montalvo, Tim Dorsey, Larry Brett, Bob Kelly, Nat McCormick, Paige Rose

Absent: Julie Findlay, Stan Howard, Tommy Leeman

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

None provided.

**II. Guest Speakers:**

**Colley Avenue Parking Updates** – John Stevenson, Sr. Design and Construction Project Manager, City of Norfolk

Mr. Stevenson provided an update on planning associated with parking along Colley Avenue. Comments included:

- We were asked to look at parking conditions along Colley Avenue near intersections. The issue is the ability for vehicles pulling out to see when pulling out.
- We must balance the need for on-street parking with safety/sight visibility. We tried to minimize the impact on parking.
- We completed a review of the east side of Maury Ave recently, but we will do a comprehensive look along the entire corridor.

JR: any other options besides reducing parking? This likely will be needed along Colonial Avenue as well.

- Mr. Stevenson: We agree about Colonial Ave. also has issues. Not many real options besides parking reductions that can be accomplished within a short time frame and with limited expense. Other options to control traffic (e.g., speed humps) may slow traffic but do not improve visibility.
- There is a plan to look at Colonial Avenue from Princess Anne to 27<sup>th</sup> Street, the Colonial Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project approved and funded this year by City Council.
- This current review may cause the loss of 6 parking spaces along Colley Ave.

Mr. Stevenson stated he would like feedback on this parking issue. Jeremy stated the GNL would post this to the membership and seek input/feedback.

Larry Brett raised the issue of no crosswalk near the intersection of Drummond Place and Mobray Arch (near the Hauge Bridge). Mr. Stevenson acknowledged this issue and stated it was a challenging area for a crosswalk. He previously prepared a rough plan for this area and committed to re-review that plan.

Mr. Stevenson provided an overview of planning to adjust speed limits throughout the neighborhoods. “Vision Zero” is an initiative to reduce or eliminate motor-related injuries in the City pedestrians, cyclists, scooter drivers, etc. Plan is for 20 MPH city-wide speed limit in neighborhoods. The City has broken up the work based on 8 Task Forces. Much of the prioritization is driven by street widths, pedestrian activity, etc. It will cost more than \$1M to perform the review city-wide. So far only the Southside Task Force – Berkley area has substantial work performed. No work yet on the Ghent Task Force.

Nancy Huber asked about sharrows (shared road markings) on Mowbray Arch. Mr. Stevenson stated that sharrows are only being done along heavily travelled streets, not on neighborhood/residential streets.

**Hurricane Preparedness** – Jim Redick, Director of Emergency Preparedness & Response, City of Norfolk

Mr. Redick gave a presentation on City plans associated with hurricane preparedness. Topics included:

- Hurricane Season
- Equity Focus
- Evacuation Zones
- Community Emergency Hubs – people agree to meet at pre-determined locations following a major disaster to share information.

He also stressed importance of signing up with Norfolk alert:  
<http://www.norfolk.gov/norfolkalert>

Mr. Redick’s presentation will be posted to the GNL website, as well as Norfolk’s Hurricane Plan.

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **Community Improvement:**

- Beechwood Park sign (corner of Colonial and Beechwood Place). ADA ramps caused the sign to be removed. City will replace this historic sign and is working with GNL and others on appropriate placement.
- The Heart of Ghent 10K race is this Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

- The last Farmer's Market of the season will be this Friday, September 17, 2021, 4-7 p.m.

#### **IV. Upcoming Member Meetings**

- October 20<sup>th</sup> at Chrysler, hopefully. **PLEASE SIGN UP** for the meeting at the Chrysler by going to the GNL website. We must have a headcount.

#### **V. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of July 21, 2021 meeting Approved by voice vote.

#### **VI. New Business/Announcements**

Holland House trash enclosure. No new updates. Pictures taken reflecting the enclosures are not working and there is a great deal of trash and graffiti in that area. This was sent to the City, which advised it is going through the court process.

JR discussed the fact that many streetlights and park lights are not operating or are not coming on early enough or staying on late enough. Paige will compile information and send to Jeremy, who will raise it with the Ghent Task Force.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting is October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM, planned to be at the Chrysler Museum  
The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.