



Ghent Neighborhood League

Wednesday, November 17th 6:30PM

Chrysler Museum

NOTE: Enter through the main museum entrance and proceed to the Education Workshop. Masks required at all times.

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

II. Guest Speakers

- **Safety Report** – Community Resource Officer Samantha Fentress
- **Proposed Appointment Only Tattoo & Art Studio @ 228 W Olney Rd.** – Mark and Jessica Wroblewski

III. Committee Reports

- Project Review - New “Inn” Zoning Definition
- Community Improvement - Street Lights & “Light the Night” event - December 15th tentative date
- GNL Holiday Party – December 12th 3PM-5PM

IV. Guest Speakers

- **Chrysler Museum Updates-** Seth Feman, Deputy Director for Art and Interpretation and Curator of Photography

V. Approval of Minutes

VI. New Business/Announcements

VII. Chrysler Museum Tour!

Next Meeting:

GNL Holiday Party December 12th 3PM-5PM at the Hague School

Light the Night December 15th

Next meeting is January 19th at 6:30PM at TBD Location

News You Can Use

- GBA’s Ghent Holiday Market is scheduled for Sunday December 5th from 11AM -4PM
- Ynot is hosting it’s 25th Annual Mayflower Food Drive from Nov 19th – Sun Nov 21. [Click here for more details.](#)
- Sacred Heart is hosting a street cleanup Saturday November 13th at 9AM for Princess Anne Rd. Contact wfmerm377@aol.com for more info.

- NFK Currents Email Newsletter has a great summary of local news and events. [Click here for the latest issue](#) and to subscribe.
- Street lights out? Go to <https://www.ghentneighborhoodleague.org/street-lighting/> for info on how to report.
- 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, October 20, 2021

Call to order and introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy McGee promptly at 6:31 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

Officer Fentress provided a safety report, which included:

- Good stats in Ghent. 10 events
- One larceny from a vehicle (with glass breakage) – power tools inside the vehicle were in plain sight.
- Multiple recent thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles. Officer Fentress will route a flyer discuss what may be done to help thwart such thefts.
- One commercial theft - 1408 Colley Ave. (Kelley’ Tavern) – thief broke glass, entered building and stole ATM machine.
- Several bicycles stolen, especially along Redgate Ave. All were secured or inside a building.
- Weapon stolen 900 block Brandon Ave. (domestic situation).
- Lighting - Considering Daylight Savings Time is approaching, lighting will become a natural safety concern. Lighting will also become an issue for pedestrian safety
- Homeless issues:
 - Recent concern about a woman with a shopping cart that stays around Redgate and Stockley Gardens. Concern was trespassing and encampment in the park after hours. However, she is on the sidewalk, which is not against the law. Outreach resources engaged her, and she was deemed no threat to herself or to others.
 - If residents see any homeless person that may be a threat or in need of assistance, contact Officer Fentress or the police generally for an evaluation.
 - Homeless man encamping behind 524 Graydon Ave. – has not been seen in the past month.

II. Guest Speakers:

Proposed Inn Ordinance – Joy Kirch-Kelling, Planner, City of Norfolk Planning Department

Jeremy McGee asked Nat McCormack (GNL Project Review Committee) to facilitate the discussion because Jeremy’s existing B&B business in Freemason could benefit from the proposed “Inn” usage ordinance.

Nat McCormack provided a general background. A proposal has been made to Norfolk Planners that the City adopt a new ordinance that permits usage for “Inns.” This new “Inn” use zoning has raised concerns for some residents. “Inn” use expands on typical bed-and-breakfast (B&B) usage, permitting more rooms, and possibly permitting food/beverages to be served to non-guests. Inn use zoning currently does not exist in Norfolk, but a change has been proposed that would create Inn usage across the city, including in historic districts like Ghent. For example, the proposed zoning change would apply to the *Page House* on Fairfax Avenue.

Joy Kirch-Kelling from the Norfolk Planning Department gave a presentation on the proposal, and particularly the distinctions between B&B usage, and the proposed Inn usage:

	Bed & Breakfast (B&B)	Inn (draft)
Length of Stay	14 days in a 30-day period	No more than 30 days
No of Rooms	No more than 7 or 4 in some historic districts	No more than 15
Management	On site occupied	On site occupied or 24 hr management
Age of Building	Prior to 1940 except in historic districts prior to '77 or '90	Over 40 yrs
Type of Building	Single Family Home	Building or group of buildings
Room Amenities	In some historic districts one private bath rm per guest rm	Full private bath rm per guest rm

Parking requirements would be identical for B&Bs and the Inns in Ghent: 1 parking space /guest room + 1 resident space. Currently, there are no restrictions on activities, nor a requirement that planned activities be specified.

Ms. Kirch-Kelling solicited questions and comments from residents, which were many and varied. Some of the comments and concerns from residents included:

- (From a potential Inn owner) – the number of private bathrooms required is too high.
- (From a representative of the potential Page House buyer) – for Page House, the plan is to only host classes, seminars, workshops, and retreats. No weddings.
 - Ms. Kirch-Kelling: typically, activities would not specified in the ordinance. Regardless of what limits are set by the Inn ordinance, a conditional use permit will need to be granted for historic districts such as Ghent and this will be subject to community review and comment. So, even if certain activity may be permitted by the ordinance, it may not be included in the activities allowed under the conditional use permit.
- Would parking would be limited solely to resident guests?
- Would parking be available also to event attendees and dining guests?
- Would activities would be limited?

- Ms. Kirch-Kelling: it is possible to craft the Inn usage ordinance to specify that amenities at the Inn (e.g., dining) shall be exclusively for resident guests.
- Key concern at 300 block of Fairfax Ave is parking and congestion. Chrysler Museum on one side, Williams School a block away. Conditional Use approval must specify permitted activities and parking requirements.
- Is it even appropriate to further expand commercial use in HC-G1 areas? (Multiple residents echoed this feeling)
- (From a representative of the potential Page House buyer) Page House will make it a requirement in its contracts that guests solely use on-site, and not on-street parking.

Existing Usage by the Women’s Club of Norfolk – Paige Rose, Past President, Women’s Club of Norfolk (WCN)

Nat McCormack introduced Paige Rose (GNL Board Member and past President of the WCN) to share the event guidelines the WCN applies to individuals and organizations wishing to use the facility for private events. The perception is that the WCN operates in a fashion that is acceptable for neighborhood use, vis-à-vis events.

Paige Rose advised that the WCN established its own set of rules for operation that it believed would be neighborhood-friendly. These rules are self-imposed by WCN and not required by City ordinance. The key areas addressed were:

Parking: Onsite. However, any event of 20 or more guests requires valet parking. The valets park cars on the water side of Mobray Arch, with each vehicle displaying a special City of Norfolk permit for the duration of the event.

Event Times: Events must end by 10:00 p.m. Cleaning occurs between 10:00 and 11:00, when the facility must be locked up.

Light pollution: The venue includes darkening screens to reduce light pollution.

Delivery times: deliveries are scheduled to reduce interference with neighborhood use (i.e. no deliveries during normal commute or school-loading times).

Multiple comments were received following Paige’s presentation, including:

- WCN’s valet parking works very well. WCN events do not significantly impact residents. (multiple residents expressed this view).
- The expected sale of the old Medical School building near the Chrysler is another concern as it may add to congestion/parking issues in the 300 block of Fairfax Ave.

III. Committee Reports

Community Improvement:

Street lights: Reporting lighting outages is no longer done via Norfolk Cares. Reporting outages is now done either by telephone call with Dominion Power (866-366-4357), or by using a webpage created by Dominion Power for such purpose.

- Bruce Dalcher volunteered to keep a running list of lights that require attention.
- A suggestion was made that any lights previously reported to Norfolk Cares should be re-reported directly with Dominion Power.

GNL Newsletter: October quarterly newsletter is out. Link on GNL website.

IV. Upcoming Member Meetings

- **Next Meeting:** 6:30 p.m. on November 17th at Chrysler. Private tour of Chrysler included. **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 September 15, 2021 meeting Approved by voice vote.

VI. New Business/Announcements

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.