



# Ghent Neighborhood League

Wednesday, May 18th 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
- **Elizabeth River Trail** – Kindra M. Greene, Executive Director

III. Committee Reports

- Ghent Scooter Corral Locations
- Officer Election Results

IV. Approval of Minutes

V. New Business/Announcements

## **Next Meeting:**

Next meeting is June 15th at 6:30PM

## News You Can Use

- Celebrate Preservation Month with NPC at two upcoming free events!
  - Keeping History Above Water Opening Plenary Sunday May 15 4-6 PM
  - Third Annual Preservation Awards of Excellence Thursday May 26, 6-8PM
  - More details on both can be found [here](#).
- Crepe Myrtle pruning tips from the City Arborist can be [seen here](#).
- 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, April 20, 2022

### (Zoom)

Board Members Present: Jeremy McGee, Julie Findlay, Jean Webster, Nat McCormick, Paige Rose, JR Montalvo

Absent: Larry Brett, Stan Howard, Bob Kelly, Tim Dorsey

### I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy McGee at 6:32 p.m.

### II. Guest Speakers

#### • Safety Report – Community Resource Officer Samantha Fentress

- Increases in numbers of Larceny cases, over half are vehicle related: notably catalytic converters and tags stolen; often parked vehicles around hospitals, med buildings
- The city is working on towing of cars, a number around Hague and W Ghent.
- Be mindful of traffic changes with upcoming festivals
  - o Norfolk NATO Festival April 28-30, including Parade of Nations Sat 4/30 10am
  - o Patriotic festival May 27-29
  - o Harborfest June 10-12

#### • Keeping History Above Water – Kayla Halberg, Norfolk Preservation Collective (NPC)

NPC is a volunteer-led organization with a mission to educate, advocate and celebrate historic preservation in Norfolk

- NPC along with City of Norfolk's Office of Resilience and ODU's Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience, in partnership with Newport Restoration Foundation is bringing the conference KHAW to Norfolk May 15-18 at the Chrysler Museum of Art.
- Sessions will explore the theme "Informed Communities Charting Solutions"
- To register and learn more, <https://historyabovewater.org/2022-norfolk/>
- Focus on impact of sea level rise and flooding to coastal historic communities. Historic Preservation professionals, federal, state, local experts. Topics will include the science and technology involved in resilience; participants include representatives from FEMA, Natl Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, local experts, materials testing companies, consultants.
- Sunday May 15 4pm plenary session at St Mary's Basilica – Norfolk (past present and future challenges) Mon/Tues 9-5, Wed 9-12 (tours).

- Preservation Awards of Excellence, 3rd annual event on May 26 at 6pm

[www.norfolkpreservationcollective.org](http://www.norfolkpreservationcollective.org)

#### • Recycling – Michael Benedetto, President of TFC Recycling

- TFC is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation family business that has been operating 35 years in Chesapeake. Started in 1973, it is the largest curbside recycler in Virginia (operates in VB, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Nags Head, as well as Richmond and Newport News)
- Acceptable Recyclables include paper, bottles and cans.
- Specifically plastic bottles #1 and #2, including Milk cartons and plastic jugs; items should be emptied, but do not need to be washed
- See below for a recycling guide from TFC website <http://www.tfcrecycling.com/>

- Mr. Benedetto encouraged decreasing single use plastics; he noted that Portsmouth Landfill is closing July 1, 2024, and Suffolk Landfill is expanding. He encourages minimizing trash that goes to landfills.
- The separation process includes screens and magnets. TFC receives 60% volume paper, 20% bottles and cans, and 20% unacceptable materials that need to go to trash.
- TFC is supporting a technology in Wilson, NC that sorts glass by color to be used by Anheuser-Busch to remake bottles, for example.
- Regarding batteries, a member noted that City of Norfolk (drop off locations); The Norfolk transfer station accepts batteries and hazardous material Tuesday and Saturday 12-4.
- Mr. Benedetto welcomes calls and TFC provides tours of facilities.

- Composting – Erin and Jason Edelman.

Erin and Jason are GNL members and co-owners of Grandiflora Wine Garden in Chelsea business district presents information about composting.

- Composting – decaying organic matter, also a step in the process of the circular economy (water cycle, carbon cycle) way that biosphere interacts with other cycles (ecosystems);
- Resiliency projects – living soil, nutrient availability, fix nitrogen can absorb water and carbon and fix nitrogen
- Why compost: Reduce (waste, emissions, and runoff), Enhance (soil fertility), Support (local economies – urban agriculture)
- Composting allows resources (nutrients) to be obtained within year, rather than thousands of years from a landfill
- Easy tips: Pick a place; be cautious with meat and animal waste, use plant waste, grass trimmings; Food waste in 5-gallon bucket, add wood or sawdust or leaves or cardboard or soiled pizza boxes – avoid tape and metal on paper, microbes from your own yard will populate!
- How we can approach as a community – scaling up; ordinance mandating compostable single use items; industrial composting – regional pick up, neighborhood composting; urban agriculture.
- Goal = Waste reduction!

### III. Committee Reports

- Project Review
  - Nat McCormick; update on Page House project – planning commission and city approved zoning for Inn use; PH has submitted CUP (conditional use permit) April 28 meeting of planning commission at City Hall regarding CUP; admin GNL email [admin@ghentneighborhoodleague.org](mailto:admin@ghentneighborhoodleague.org); contact with questions and concerns or [njtmccormick@gmail.com](mailto:njtmccormick@gmail.com)
  - GNL members are encouraged to view images of proposed historic street sign; Norfolk City is eager for our input <https://www.ghentneighborhoodleague.org/potential-new-street-signs/>
- Light the Night Update
  - Paige Rose; April 1; 11 Ghent residents – 92 streetlights reported, successful action by Dominion Power; impact for safety is great
- Nominating Committee
  - voting for officers and board members for 2022-23 year, voting link sent out Monday – all votes need to be cast by May 13<sup>th</sup>, results announced at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2022, were approved unanimously.

#### **V. New Business/Announcements**

None.

**Next Membership Meeting:** Wednesday May 18, 2022, 6:30 PM. Location: TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.