

GHENT NEIGHBORHOOD LEAGUE

THE GNL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WEDNESDAY, April 19, 2023
LOCATION: OHEF SHOLOM TEMPLE, 530 RALEIGH AVE at 6:30 PM

Dear GNL Members and Friends: The Ghent Neighborhood League has resumed meeting in person. Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at Ohef Sholom Temple, 530 Raleigh Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia. Please enter through the parking lot doors. There is a ZOOM option available to GNL members who prefer to meet virtually. The agenda is as follows:

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Safety Report – Officer Charles Dreer, Community Resource Officer

- IV. Guest Speakers:
 - I. John Miller, Co-founder and Manager, Downtown Norfolk Community Garden

 - II. Jason Edelman, Co-owner, Grandiflora Wine Garden

- V. Approval of Minutes: March 15, 2023

- VI. Committee Reports:

Treasurer’s Report: Robert Kelly

Nomination Committee Report: Jeremy McGee

- VII. New Business

Light the Night – Paige Rose

VIII. Old Business:

- Scooter Corrals –No Update
- Mosquito Control –No Update
- Maury High School – NPS is reviewing an alternative proposal that saves the historic building and builds a new school. More details when they become available.

VII. Announcements –

NEXT GNL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: May 17, 2023, Ohef Sholom Temple, 6:30 PM. Invited to discuss ongoing construction projects: Chrysler Museum of Art Perry Glass Studio and Christ and Saint Luke's Episcopal Church.

NORFOLK MASTER GARDENERS URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM. The Norfolk Master Gardeners provide horticultural and education to Norfolk residents who seek to: increase food-producing gardens, vegetables; plant native plant gardens; establish pollinator plant gardens; create container gardens with vegetables, native plants, and pollinator plants. This program covers the full range of urban agriculture: classic community gardens; individual home gardens; school gardens; church gardens; recreation center gardens, etc. Per Ann Miller: "WE DO HOUSE CALLS". The Norfolk Master Gardeners will visit home gardens to provide recommendations for success so that every resident who wants a garden can have one.

NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN ONLINE SPRING PLANT SALE IS APRIL 21-23! Plant a better work with NBG by going to www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org and following three easy steps. By going on-line you can preview a selection of natives, perennials, tropicals, and more. NBG members will receive exclusive early access shopping on April 21, 2023, starting at 10:00 AM.

GHENT FARMERS MARKET: Back for its third year, the Ghent Farmers Market will be held on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from April-October 4-7 PM. The next Farmers Market Day is April 21, 2023.

MAYOR ALEXANDER'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS: The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce hosted the Norfolk State of the

City Address on April 14, 2023. A video of the speech can be found at Norfolk.gov on the City Council Page.

STOCKLEY GARDENS ARTS FESTIVAL: Hope House Foundation will be hosting the 2023 Stockley Gardens Spring Arts Festival in Stockley Gardens Park between Olney Rd. and Redgate Ave. on May 20th & 21st, 2023.. It's an art festival that includes approximately 120 artists, 6 food vendors, and entertainment. For the safety of the patrons, artists, volunteers and neighbors, we must close the cross streets of Stockley Gardens Park at Raleigh Ave and Boissevain Avenue. Proceeds for this event will benefit the Hope House Foundation. For more information, please visit our Stockley Gardens Arts Festival Facebook page.

NORFOLK CARES: Any issue with trash, neighborhood nuisances, or any city service should be reported to Norfolk Cares using one of the below channels.

- o [Request a Service using MyNorfolk](http://mynorfolk.org) website (mynorfolk.org) or app or call 757-664-6510.

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MINUTES:

Board Members Present: Karen Reynes, Bob Kelly, Tim Dorsey, Jason Edelman, Scott Shephard, Nat McCormick, Jeremy McGee, Paige Rose, Jean Webster, Julie Findlay.
Absent: Stan Howard, Willie Ward.

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Karen Reynes at 6:34 p.m.

Ms. Reynes expressed the thanks from the entire GNL Board to Ohef Sholom Temple for hosting our meetings.

II. Introductions

Members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Safety Report – Officer Charles Dreer

Officer Dreer provided most recent crime statistics (19 Jan the 14 Feb).

- 1 aggravated assault – gunshot wound
- 1 Domestic aggravated assault
- 1 larceny - all other – Ring camera stolen
- 1 larceny of bicycle – Pembroke Ave
- 4 larceny parts from auto – catalytic converters
- 1 residential burglary
- 9 larceny - from autos
- 7 stolen vehicles (Kia and Hyundai continue to be an issue)

IV. Guest Speakers

Dr. Betty Meyer, Civic Lab Project Program Manager, Open Data Team, on the subject of the 2022 City of Norfolk Resident Survey

Dr. Meyer discussed the recently released City of Norfolk Resident Survey. Some highlights:

- Last Resident Survey was in 2014, and that was not published.
- Latest gathered in October 2022.
- Assesses resident satisfaction with City services.
- Helps to establish City priorities/budgets.
- Helps build an understanding of Norfolk services compared to other communities regionally and nationally.
- Random number of households received the mailed survey.
- 922 residents responded; a minimum of 150 per ward, which yielded +-3.2% margin of error at 95% confidence.
- Additionally, 313 residents responded in anonymous responses provided in libraries.

- Very well represented geographic, ethnic and age groups.
- Resident Perceptions:
 - Responses were very consistent across wards.
 - People were overall very satisfied with Norfolk.
 - Quality of Life
 - However, low satisfaction for a place to raise children.
 - Overall appearance.
 - Value for your tax dollars
 - Reputation
 - Diversity
 - Police Services and Public Schools ranked the most important City services to be addressed by the City.
 - Visibility of police in neighborhoods a common desire.
 - Ambulance, Fire services, water quality, libraries and trash collection ranked with very high satisfaction.
 - Police in neighborhoods, short term rentals, code enforcement, public schools and affordable childcare were ranked much lower.

Norfolk Open Data Portal has all the survey results (go to Norfolk.gov, scroll to bottom, click on Open Data, then choose Resident Survey).

IV. Committee Reports

- Treasurer’s Report
 - The Treasurer’s Report, previously circulated, was discussed and approved unanimously as submitted.
- Nominating Committee
 - A proposed slate of members for the Nominating Committee was proposed, consistent with the Bylaws. The proposed slate includes:
 - Jeremy McGee, Past President
 - Robert Kelly, Chair
 - Julie Findlay
 - Tom Ferguson
 - Scott Shepherd

After discussion, the slate of members for the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2023, were approved unanimously, without change.

VI. Old Business

1. Elizabeth River Trail Signage on Mowbray Arch – No update
2. Scooter Corrals – No Update on residential hotspots
3. Mosquito Control – No update
4. Maury High School – No update

VII. New Business/Announcements

CORRECTION: STOCKLEY GARDENS ARTS FESTIVAL: Hope House Foundation will be hosting the 2023 Stockley Gardens Spring Arts Festival in Stockley Gardens Park between Olney Rd. and Redgate Ave. on May 20th & 21st, 2023.. It's an art festival that includes approximately 120 artists, 6 food vendors, and entertainment. For the safety of the patrons, artists, volunteers and neighbors, we must close the cross streets of Stockley Gardens Park at Raleigh Ave and Boissevain Avenue. Proceeds for this event will benefit the Hope House Foundation. For more information, please visit our Stockley Gardens Arts Festival Facebook page.

GHENT DOG PARK – the Ghent Dog Park Association has requested our help with cleanup. More to follow.

STREET SWEEPING REMINDER – The City of Norfolk has the most comprehensive street sweeping program in Hampton Roads. The City strives to sweep all streets in the City that have curbs and gutters once a month. Check the website www.norfolk.gov/2658/streetsweeping for a calendar by your address and the schedule map. There is also signage on each street. Please note that there is new signage in Stockley Gardens. The City offers tips for helping the street sweepers do their job: Do not place yard debris, grass clippings, or blow/rake leaves into the street; Remove any large limbs or other heavy debris from the gutter line; and **MOVE YOUR**

VEHICLES FROM THE STREET ON SCHEDULED DAYS. Tickets are given for vehicles that are not moved.

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1. Request a Service using MyNorfolk website (mynorfolk.org) or app or call 757-664-6510.

NORFOLK PRESERVATION COLLECTIVE will have another awards presentation event in a few months. More to follow.

Next Membership Meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 6:30 PM. Location: TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Board Members Present: Karen Reynes, Jean Webster, Bob Kelly, , Scott Shephard, Tim Dorsey, Jeremy McGee, Willie Ward, Julie Findlay, Paige Rose.

Absent: Stan Howard, Nat McCormick, Jason Edelman

The meeting was called to order by Karen Reynes at 7:05 p.m.

I. General Membership Meeting Preparation (03/15/2023)

The members discussed the upcoming meeting with the Membership. Topics (including comments from Karen Reynes):

- Lights — Perennial Issue supported by the City survey. Light the Night – perhaps in April. Paige will spearhead, but would like help.
- Speed Limits in Ghent — how do we comment? John Stevenson has not yet responded to our query re: Colonial Ave, Colley, Olney and Llewellyn.
- Cleanup to be planed sometime after Easter. This will be a “yard” for of cleanup instead of a “street/trash” cleanup.
- Hague Seawall - We are asking for a line item in the City budget for the Hague Seawall Repair. Mel Price who serves as the City planning consultant will bring an architect. Mel is also the master planner of the Elizabeth River Trail. Mel recommends we work with the City beyond Public Works to include stormwater, the Green Master Plan team, Kyle Spencer in Resilience and the ERT. This is a big ask because is requires city offices to work together on a comprehensive plan. We should discuss it ahead of making such a proposal to the Ghent Task Force.
- Maury High School (MHS)- GNL submitted its nomination of MHS to Preservation Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places list. Pending is a listing of the MHS property with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and/or getting the MHS building made a City Landmark. The former requires updated pictures. We are told by DHR a nomination to list MHS would be easy. Not sure about the Landmark process as that comes from ARB and City Planning to City Council.
- Street Sweeping – the City has given notice that it plans to revise its street sweeping schedule, which will reduce the amount of sweeping we received. Ghent

Square has asked if we would join them in being vocal in opposition to the new schedule.

- Williams School – has reached out about relationship with GNL. More to come.

II. Additional Issues

Next Membership Meeting: March 15, 2023, 6:30 PM. Location: Temple Ohef Sholom

Next Board Meeting: TBD

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT