



**KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
OCEAN FRONT PARK PLANNING
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2008**

MINUTES

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Mac Montgomery
Mayor Pro Tem Jim Dugan
Commissioner Dean Lambeth
Commissioner Jim Vatr

COUNCIL ABSENT

Commissioner Barry Nelder

STAFF PRESENT

Town Administrator Michelle James
Administrative Assistant Nancy Hewitt

Town Attorney A.A. Canoutas was present. A quorum of the Council was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Montgomery called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and explained that the reason for the meeting was to take suggestions and answer questions regarding the Kure Beach Ocean Front Park. He proceeded to review the grant requests the Town has submitted to help fund the acquisition of the property. The sources are, as follows:

- The Town has already received \$500,000 from New Hanover County's Parks & Recreation Bond.
- The Town has been approved for a \$500,000 grant from the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, with administrative conditions attached, and from the Division of Water Resources for \$300,000.
- The application for a grant from NCDENR's Division of Coastal Management is getting positive feedback and the Town should know by the end of May if the \$500,000 grant has been approved.
- On May 16, the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund will consider the Town's request for a \$500,000 grant.
- The Town's request for a grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for \$755,250 will be considered in August.

Commissioner Lambeth said that, while he and the Mayor were in Raleigh talking with representatives of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and NC State Parks & Recreation Trust Fund, he noticed very few of them knew that Kure Beach was designated as one of the two cleanest beaches on the East Coast.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugan stated that the Ocean Front Park Committee has been charged with the duty of coming up with a theme for the park and with deciding what should be put within the park. Handouts were passed around containing a blank grid of the park, and all were encouraged to take it home and draw their ideas on it for the park. These should be brought back to Town Hall to be considered by the committee. The committee will have a booth at the Annual Street Festival where people can get information, ask questions and share their ideas for the park; and the handout will be available to them, too.

Mayor Montgomery said that people enjoy the compact nature of Kure Beach's downtown area. The Town appreciates its businesses and hopes they will remain healthy. He pointed out that the revenue gained from them helps fund Town projects and helps to keep some of the tax burden off of its citizens.

He explained that the park will be designed to have its own filtration system for storm water runoff. This means all storm water will be treated before it empties out into the ocean. He said the power lines that were running in front of the park are now underground, thanks to the cooperation of Progress Energy, and this will help keep the park aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL

Sandy Cox, Kure Beach Resident, said she hopes that whatever the Town does, it will make the park friendly to residents as well as to tourists. She suggested that, if the Town decides to have public showers, it should install pay-showers to help pay for Town water. She also suggested having restaurants or stores built up on pilings over top of the park.

Gabby Kraus, Kure Beach Resident, said he hopes the Town will look long and hard at the thought of putting in showers. He said making showers available could attract people who will use them to take their personal showers.

Alan Pacek, Representation from the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce, stated that he is involved with the Chamber as well as the Pleasure Island Foundation for a Sustainable Future. He said people wishing to provide private funding will often deal with a foundation before they will deal with a government entity. He went on to say that New Hanover County needs a venue to hold weddings, and he hopes the park will be structured in such a way as to provide this. He said this would be beneficial for local restaurants and hotels, as well. He suggested that additional TDA money could be available to the park if it provided for certain venues such as weddings, band concerts, outdoor movies and health fairs.

Mary Vann, Kure Beach Resident, said that she hopes the committee will consider putting swings in the park, much like those provided in Southport's park. The swings would be porch-type, wooden swings to add a leisure feel to the park.

Tony Gonsalves, Kure Beach Resident, said that the Kure Beach Annual Christmas Show is a valuable asset to Kure Beach. He would like to see a stage erected within the park that contains a built-in lighting system. He would like to see movies and music-centered events at the park. Portable bleachers could be set up in the park during these events. He also stated that full bathrooms should be provided in the park, including showers, to make visitors feel welcomed and to encourage tourism.

Phyllis Mojzis, Kure Beach Resident, said that residents do not want to see people having “sleepovers” at the park. Mayor Montgomery made it clear that the KB Police Department is already working on that issue and other law enforcement issues that might be presented at the park.

Jean Prete, Kure Beach Resident, asked who would be in charge of the maintenance of the park and, if provided, its bathrooms. Mayor Montgomery said that the Town’s Public Works department would be responsible for the maintenance. Additionally, New Hanover County has made a financial commitment to help with the upkeep of the property. Ms. Prete said that picnic tables and grills are not a good idea. She feels that this will encourage day-trippers to “set up camp” for the day and horde the tables. Mayor Montgomery addressed the fact that charcoal grills left burning would be an issue, and Commissioner Lambeth backed the Mayor up by adding that it would create a liability for the Town, so grills would probably not be considered in the plan.

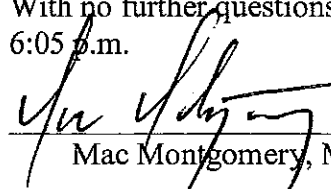
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Lambeth announced that the Kure Beach Parks & Recreation Committee is working diligently to make sure that the citizens of Kure Beach are offered a full agenda of recreational activities. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the activities noting that the more citizens who show an interest in the programs, the more programs will be created.

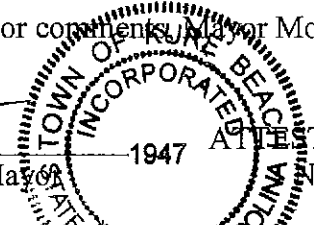

Nancy Hewitt explained that information on the park can be viewed on the Town’s website at www.townofkurebeach.org. By clicking on the “Park Project” button, individuals can obtain additional information about the project, including committee minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem Dugan explained that the Ocean Front Park Committee meetings are always open to the public, as are all Town meetings, if anyone would care to attend.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Montgomery adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.



Mac Montgomery, Mayor

 ATTEN: 

Nancy Hewitt, Administrative Assistant

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. Persons wishing to hear the recording of this meeting may request to do so by contacting the Town Clerk.



Nancy Curran
Town Clerk