

Town of Kure Beach
Community Center Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM by Chairperson Ellen Owens. Other committee members in attendance were Jim FitzGerald, Alice Gilliland, Christine Burrows, Ryan Avery. Town Council Commissioner Connie Mearkle and Recreation Director Nikki Keely were also present.

Approval of minutes: The March committee minutes were approved. (Ellen, Jim)

Town News:

Connie Mearkle gave a brief update on town council activities.

Rental Update [Recreation Department]:

Nikki provided an update on recreational activities and the state of community center bookings. All is going well.

Kure Beach Community Fest on Saturday April 25th from 11a – 3p: Town-wide festival at the Pavillion. We will have a table set up for our committee there.

Kure Beach is hosting the Little Pink Houses week-long event for 17 families, which is ongoing since Sunday April 12.

Community Center Old Business:

Genealogy Interest Group (GIG): GIG continues to meet monthly. Last week, 5 people + Shelley as the committee representative attended the April 2nd meeting. We had a guest speaker about DNA at the meeting, and next month the topic will be about Artificial Intelligence and genealogy.

Next regular meeting is May 7th, which is regularly the first Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:00PM.

Lectures:

Gardening Lecture and Plant Swap: Ellen scheduled a Gardening 101 lecture and plant swap with the Botanical Garden Extension for March 21st at 1PM. It went well with 30+ in attendance.

We will follow up with Ryland Fox (Bike Ped Committee) about getting help with the flower beds in front of the Community Center. John will reach out to him for help.

Pasta Making Trial Class was Sunday March 22nd at 4:30p in preparation for a public class. 2nd round practice class is May 31st at 4:30p. The public class will be June 14th at 4:30p.

ID Theft: Nikki has organized a lecture on ID Theft by Civic Federal Credit Union representative Tim Johnson was held on Tuesday, March 24th at 7PM.

Ping Pong: A Ping Pong tournament is scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 19th from 3-5PM. Alice will join to help. The next quarterly tournament will be Sunday July 12th from 3-5PM.

Ryan Avery (new alternate committee member) joined the meeting and offered to help restart the bi-weekly pick-up ping pong activity on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 3-5PM. Ryan will continue the pick-up ping pong starting April 26th, May 3rd, May 17th, June 7th, and 21st (as a Father's Day event). (Note that May 10th is Mother's Day, and there is a rental on May 24th.)

Birding Lecture: Lecture on 8-10 bird varieties and then show some photography on May 12th at 7PM.

Community Center New Business

Promotional Items: We ordered floating key chains and flower seed "matchbooks" to give away at events that will have the Town of Kure Beach logo.

Jim reached out to Becky Doherty (New Hanover County Senior Resource Center) who can come give a lecture on how they can help coordinate volunteer opportunities. This could be a July event (date TBD in consultation with Becky Doherty).

Ryan Avery was approved by the Town Council as an alternate member of the Community Center Committee.

Upcoming committee events include:

- April 19th – Ping Pong Tournament (3-5PM)
- April 26th, May 3rd, May 17th, June 7th, June 21st – Pick-up Ping Pong (3-5PM)
- May 12th – Birding lecture and photography (7PM)
- May 31st – Trial Pasta Making Class w/new supplies (4:30PM)
- June 14th – Pasta Making Class
- July 12th – Ping Pong Tournament (3-5PM)

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:37AM and the next meeting will be held on May 12th, 2026 at 9:30AM in the town hall.