Town of Kure Beach
Community Center Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2026

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Ellen Owens. Other committee members in attendance were Christine Burrows, Shelly Germaine, Jim Fitzgerald, John Pride, Alice Gilliiland, and Mike McMahon. Town Council Commissioner Connie Mearkle and Recreation Department Director Nikki Keely were also present.

Approval of minutes: The July committee minutes were approved. (Shelly, Jim)

Town News:

Connie Mearkle gave a brief update on town council activities including the Disney pilot filming that just wrapped up and quite a few other activities.

Facility Update [Recreation Department]:

Nikki provided an update on recreational activities and the state of community center bookings including the full week rental for catering for the Disney pilot filming. Things are busy with very high rental rates with new holiday bookings.

Community Center Old and Continued Business:

Genealogy Interest Group (GIG): GIG continues to meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month. July's class went well with 3 attendees. Disney had the community center the first full week of August so the August meeting was cancelled.

Pasta Classes: The Aug 23rd class was posted on Facebook, and Nikki set up a Congnito registration for it. It filled up in 45 minutes, so a waitlist was developed. Using the waitlist, two additional classes were added for Aug 9th and Sept 20th, both of which were filled. The plan is to pause on additional classes until the early Spring, and we will start charging $10/person since costs have increased and not currently breaking even on the cost of food supplies.

We will also further discuss the idea of a Spring fundraiser partnering with Friends of Kure Beach which could include pasta making, wine tasting, and highlighting other topics the committee is hosting including Gardening 101, Artificial Intelligence, and Genealogy.

Artificial Intelligence Round Table Discussion: A flyer has been developed that will be posted around the town. Plan is to have it on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7-8:30p for the next six months starting in October (10/13, 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9). The initial topic will be an invited expert overview, and Mike and Shelley are looking at options for a presenter.

Sandy Stitches: Plan is to have it once a month, 3rd Wednesday of the month (August 19th).

Mahjong: We continue to have suggestions to have a Mahjong event(s) that the committee is considering. There are also other Mahjong activities around the island. The committee will host a one-time event this October 6th from 3-5p with no parking costs off season and go from there. Shelley and Christine have offered to take the lead on teaching new players.

Ping Pong Tournaments: Will continue bi-monthly on the 2nd Sunday of each month (9/13, 11/8, 1/10, 3/14), and Christine will lead these but will need support from one other committee member.

Additional Potential Events: Other potential classes or lectures were discussed including candle making, wine tasting, or even a walking club. No commitments were made and the committee plans to discuss these and other possible activities again next meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:33. The next meeting will be held on September 8th, 2026, at 9:30AM in the town hall. Ellen will not be available so Jim will plan to chair that meeting.