Town of Kure Beach
Community Center Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026

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

Approval of minutes: The January committee minutes were approved. (Ellen, Shelley)

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.

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

Community Center Old Business:

Genealogy Interest Group (GIG): GIG continues to meet monthly. 6 people + Jim attended the February meeting. The GIG sponsored a "Genealogy Beginners Night" on Tuesday, January 27 and had several new people come. Next regular meeting is March 5th, which is regularly the first Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:00PM. On April 2nd, Jim won't be available, so Shelley will cover as the committee representative.

Ping Pong: A Ping Pong tournament is scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 19th, 2026 from 3-5PM.

Lectures:

Medicare: Mike reported we have confirmed a Medicare lecture by Steve Swiss and Monica Rohena of the New Hanover County Senior Health Insurance Information Program tonight, Tuesday, February 10 at 7PM. Mike, Jim, Ellen, and Shelley will be there about 6PM to set up.

Gardening Lecture and Plant Swap: Ellen has scheduled a Gardening 101 lecture and plant swap with the Botanical Garden Extension for March 21st at 1PM.

We will also ask about getting help with the flower beds in front of the Community Center from the Botanical Garden Extension group.

ID Theft**:** Nikki has organized a lecture on ID Theft by Civic Federal Credit Union representative Tim Johnson for Tuesday, March 24th at 7PM. Discussed potentially inviting the KB Police Department to also participate.

Open House:

The open house went well, and it was a good turnout. Met someone from the Island Arts Council, who will use the community center for a totem pole event (date to be determined).

Community Center New Business

Budget: Community Center budget will be set at a level budget of $3800 for FY2026. The committee discussed the need to get a TV for the large room in the KB Community Center with an antenna.

Bridge club would like to use the community center on Tuesdays from 1-4PM. It would have to have a community center committee member there to use it without a contract. That is not an option, so Nikki will work with the Bridge club to set up a contract.

Discuss other possible events including knitting club (John Price to take the lead) and Mahjong. The committee is reviewing additional ideas from the open house.

One idea from the open house that gained a lot of interest was a fresh pasta making class. We will have a trial in March with committee members, and we will look at having the pasta making event in April or May.

Upcoming committee events include:

- March 5 – Genealogy Interest Group (1PM)
- March 21 - Gardening 101 lecture and plant swap with the Botanical Garden Extension (1PM)
- March 24 - ID Theft lecture by Civic Federal Credit Union (7PM)
- April 2 - Genealogy Interest Group (1PM)
- April 19 - Ping Pong Tournament(3-5PM)

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:40AM and the next meeting will be held on March 10, 2026 at 9:30AM in the town hall.