

**Town of Kure Beach**  
**Community Center Committee**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
March 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 Gilliland, Shelley Germain, John Pride. Town Council Commissioner Connie Mearkle and Recreation Director Nikki Keely were also present.

**Approval of minutes:** The February committee minutes were approved. (Ellen, Shelley, John)

**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.

Volunteer dinner tonight at 6p this evening.

Kure Beach Community Fest on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>: 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. Last week, 9 people + Jim attended the March meeting. We had a guest speaker about the Family Search Library software that went well. Next month, the guest speaker will talk about DNA, and next month the topic will be about Artificial Intelligence and geneology.

Next regular meeting is April 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is regularly the first Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:00PM. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jim won't be available, so Shelley will cover as the committee representative.

**Lectures:**

Medicare: Mike reported that the Medicare lecture went well by Steve Swiss and Monica Rohena of the New Hanover County Senior Health Insurance Information Program on Tuesday, February 10 at 7PM. We discussed doing this lecture annually.

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

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 will be Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30p in preparation for a public class.

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

Ping Pong: A Ping Pong tournament is scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 3-5PM. Ryan Avery (community member) joined the meeting and offered to help re-start the bi-weekly pick-up ping pong activity on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays each month at 3-5PM. Ryan will start the pick-up ping pong starting March 29<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and April 26<sup>th</sup>. In May, we will be flexible on dates since May 10<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day, and there is a rental on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Ryan will work with Christine on coordinating these pick-up games twice a month going forward.

### **Community Center New Business**

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

The committee is still reviewing additional ideas for recreation center events 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.

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 May event, potentially the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Ryan Avery was nominated and approved to be an alternate member of the Community Center Committee. His name will be submitted to the Town Council for final approval.

Upcoming committee events include:

- March 21 - Gardening 101 lecture and plant swap with the Botanical Garden Extension (1PM)

- March 31 (rescheduled since meeting) - 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 10:37AM and the next meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 9:30AM in the town hall.