Town of Kure Beach
Community Center Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2026

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM by Jim Fitzgerald. Other committee members in attendance were John Price, Alice Gilliiland, Mike McMahon, and Shelley Germain. Town Council Commissioner Connie Mearkle and Recreation Director Nikki Keely were also present.

Approval of minutes: The April committee minutes were approved. (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. Things are busy with the highest rental rate yet.

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

Community Center Old Business:

Genealogy Interest Group (GIG): GIG continues to meet monthly. April's class was on Artificial Intelligence and genealogy and went well. June's event will likely be cancelled due to travel.

Lectures:

Birding Lecture: May 12th at 7PM on 8-10 bird varieties and will include bird photos from local photographer.

Ping Pong:

Next Ping Pong tournament is scheduled for Sunday July 12th from 3-5PM.

Ryan Avery (new alternate committee member) is leading pick-up ping pong activity on select Sundays each month at 3-5PM. Upcoming dates include 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.)

Pasta Classes:

May 31st Community Center Committee Trial Pasta Making Class @4:30p to test some efficiencies and new supplies.

June 14th public pasta class will follow. With a limit of 12-14 people per class, an additional class may need to be considered if enough interest is shown.

Community Center New Business:

John Pride has followed up with Ryland Fox (Bike Ped Committee) about getting help with the flower beds in front of the Community Center. John will follow up with Ryland again, and Ellen will follow up with the Gardening 101 presenters who also expressed interest.

Monday June 15th @3p: Becky Doherty (New Hanover County Senior Resource Center) will give a lecture on how they can help coordinate volunteer opportunities. There was interest in potentially moving it to Tuesday June 16th, which Jim will check on.

Upcoming committee events:

- May 17th, June 7th, June 21st (Father's Day) – Pick-up Ping Pong (3-5PM), need to get updated dates from Ryan for July and August if he wants to continue through the summer.
- May 12th – Birding lecture and photography (7PM)
- May 31st – Trial Pasta Making Class w/new supplies (4:30PM)
- June 14th – Pasta Making Class (4:30PM)
- July 12th – Ping Pong Tournament (3-5PM)

Community Center Committee can participate in Neighbor Nights (every Thursday at 6:30 – 7:30p, would need to arrive early) – we need to get some suggested dates to Nikki.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:24AM and the next meeting will be held on June 9th, 2026 at 9:30AM in the town hall.