Town of Kure Beach
Community Center Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Sept 8, 2026

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Jim Fitzgerald. Other committee members in attendance were Christine Burrows, Shelley Germain, 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 August committee minutes were approved after a few corrections. (Shelly, John)

Town News:

Connie Mearkle gave a brief update on town council activities including Arlen Copenhaver's retirement and quite a few other activities including a proposed UNCW documentary on the 30th anniversary of Hurricane Fran. She also gave an update on progress on Joe Eakes Park and potential greenway update including meetings with Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU).

Facility Update [Recreation Department]:

Nikki provided an update on recreational activities and the state of community center bookings with summer activities winding down.

Community Center Old and Continued Business:

Sandy Stitchers: First event was scheduled for August 19th (3rd Wednesday of the month) from 1-3p, but no one attended. Decision was to defer it until February.

Genealogy Interest Group (GIG): GIG continues to meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month. September's class went well with 3 attendees.

Pasta Classes: Final 2026 class will be held on Sept 20th. We will set up additional classes starting in late Winter/early Spring, and we will start charging $10/person since 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 6:30-8p 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 by Dr. Sohail Sukhera (CFCC).

Ping Pong Tournaments: Will continue bi-monthly on the 2nd Sunday of each month (9/13, 11/8, 1/10, 3/14) from 3-5p, and Christine will lead these but will need support from one other committee member. Jim Fitzgerald can join and help in September.

Mahjong: 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 will take the lead on teaching new players.

Landscaping: With cooler weather, we will pick up the landscaping task again at the Community Center.

Medicare Lecture: The committee is considering an annual lecture before Medicare open enrollment season (Oct 15th – Dec 7th). Mike wlll get hold of Monica Rohena who runs the SHIIP program in Wilmington.

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.

Shelley is interested in doing a Euker class sometime soon. A cookie swap was done previously as a holiday event that we will revisit with Ellen when she returns.

John proposed having another Open House at the KB Community Center in January, as well as a committee holiday party for discussion at our meeting next month.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:39. The next meeting will be held on October 13th, 2026, at 9:30AM in the town hall.