

MINUTES

TOWN OF KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

117 Settlers Lane ■ Kure Beach, NC 28449



Dean Lambeth, Mayor
Chuck Keener, Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Dugan, Commissioner
Barry Nelder, Commissioner
Emilie Swearingen, Commissioner

WORK SESSION

MARCH 24, 2011 at 6:00 pm

The Kure Beach Town Council held a joint work session with the members of the Community Center and Parks & Recreation Committees, the Public Works Director and the Finance Officer to discuss rental procedures for the Community Center.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor	Dean Lambeth
Mayor Pro Tem	Chuck Keener
Commissioner	Barry Nelder
Commissioner	Emilie Swearingen
Commissioner	Jim Dugan

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Public Works Director	Sonny Beeker
Finance Officer	Arlen Copenhaver
Town Clerk	Nancy Avery

Mayor Lambeth called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

MOTION – Mayor Pro Tem Keener made a motion to adopt proclamation P11-02 in support of Community Spirit.

SECOND – Commissioner Dugan

VOTE - Unanimous

Said proclamation is herein included as part of these minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem Keener stated that Council had a budget meeting a few weeks ago, and the Finance Officer brought up some of the money spent by the Community Center for opening and closing. Council had reached a consensus that Town recreation instructors would open and close and be responsible for cleaning the center. I mentioned this at the next Community Center Committee meeting, and they have reasons for not wanting it. They stated that the current person responsible for opening and closing the center finds things like toilets running, etc., which can cost the tax payers money. There are also five to six ways of scheduling events at the center with no consistency. I wanted to get the group together to resolve this and get the committees on the same path.



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DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Community Center Committee Members' Comments:

- We want the current custodial person to open and close the Community Center because he checks for cleanliness. We think his fee is worth the security of the building.
- Events sponsored by the Community Center have a member of the committee there to open and close, so we don't need a custodian. The Aikido class is tied in with the Police Department and they have their own key.
- For events that Parks & Recreation puts on, we think we need a custodian to open and close. Security of the building is the important factor. It needs to be checked that it is locked after each event.
- For our rentals to the public we write in the opening and closing fee.
- We have a to-do checklist that we give everyone who rents before they leave. If the checklist was followed, it would limit what John (custodian) has to do.
- The committee feels strongly we shouldn't give keys out to people doing classes, but only to our custodian. If you let keys out from Town Hall, there is no way you can absolutely know that the center is locked back.
- If Parks & Recreation wants to be responsible, it would need to have a chosen person. We don't need multiple keys out for the Community Center. We recommend one person within the Parks & Recreation Committee to volunteer to do that. We want to know that person before handing out the key. We want to talk to them first. We don't have any problem with Ken (Withrow) opening his own class.
- We don't want to be responsible for Town-sponsored events. We would have to pay the custodian to open and close and it would come out of our budget.
- This meeting is about the key thing. The Town is not recouping enough from these particular Town-sponsored events to pay for the opening and closing of the center, or even lights and heat.
- We try to make money for the Town.
- We pay the Caller for the square dance \$100. If we have enough people at the square dance we make enough but, if not, the cost comes out of our budget.
- There is an inequity. Ken (Withrow) is a resident and gives and gives and gives, whereas the ballet instructor doesn't, and yet she doesn't pay opening and closing fees.
- We would hate to see us not have classes for the good of the Town because of this fee.

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Custodian Comments:

- Parks & Recreation does a good job of cleaning up. There have been a couple of times when there have been issues, like the flapper valve not closing properly in the toilet. I once found a leaking toilet and called Public Works. There has been no misuse.
- With the ballet class with kids you have fingerprints on the wall and snacks left around. One of my responsibilities is to take care of supplies such as refilling paper towels and toilet paper. I also empty the trash. It's not just a matter of opening and closing.
- There have been some holes in the wall when removing dispensers and I have fixed them.

Parks & Recreation (P&R) Committee Members' Comments:

- Is the Parks & Recreation committee the only committee you charge anything? The question on the table tonight is whether Parks & Recreation should continue to pay the Community Center committee opening and closing fees.
- If there are only two programs in effect right now and one is held by a citizen of the community and the other is by a non resident, it should be the responsibility of the Parks & Recreation committee to see that the Community Center is opened and closed. The Parks & Recreation committee can be just as responsible for that as the Community Center. If it is a local citizen, he has every right to open and close that facility. Ken Withrow is an adult and is responsible enough to open and close.
- Why should Town-sponsored events be expected to make enough to pay opening and closing fees and the heating bills; they are citizens of the community.
- We are saying that citizens serving on the Parks & Recreation Committee are as responsible as anyone else in this room. We want that responsibility and want to be relieved of having to pay a custodian to open and close.
- Any instructor could end up not making any money if they had to charge \$15 for each day of the class. They won't be teaching long. If they raise the rates, they won't have students.

Council Comments:

- The basis of the problem is consistency.
- It appears there hasn't been any abuse of the property.
- We had not heard the custodian was also doing maintenance.
- If the Town, through one or both of the committees, decided it wanted to have a finger painting class for people over 80 and found an instructor who would not

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charge, should we be charging a fee at all to open and close the facility since that is the Town's activity? That is separate from if someone was charging to have a class as an independent instructor.

- The Town subsidizes the Community Center at \$12,000 per year, plus Public Works' time. We never expected the Community Center to make money.
- The original point is that Council reached a consensus about opening and closing fees and the Community Center Committee doesn't agree.
- It doesn't have anything to do with individuals or personalities. It is more about the precedent we are setting. We could end up with a lot of people that have keys. That isn't a good precedent to set.
- If these are Town events, events should run through one committee instead of two.
- If the Community Center Committee holds a dance, they pay a band to play and the band isn't charged an opening and closing fee. But, if Parks & Recreation has an event, it gets charged.
- Sounds like the dividing line is if it is a Community Center-sponsored event or a Town-sponsored event.
- Could all events be sponsored by the Community Center? If the Community Center is asked by Council to hold an event that you didn't want to do, would you say no? Council could decide to keep everything under the Community Center umbrella so that any event anyone wants to have is sponsored by the Community Center Committee.
- Parks & Recreation is set up to cover overhead, not to make money.
- We are here to determine if Town-sponsored events should be charged an opening and closing fee.
- \$15 to open and close is not a large enough amount of money to argue about for a Town-sponsored event. What is the problem with giving the Community Center Committee \$500 or \$1,000 to cover opening and closing for Town-sponsored events. The security is worth it. It is admirable that the Community Center Committee takes it on themselves to cover the costs to lessen the burden on the citizens of the Town.
- Council accepted Bob Fitzsimons' resignation because he doesn't live on the island. Two more have moved off the island, so they have to resign. Parks & Recreation members never set it up to make a profit. The reason for the proposed resignation is that they are charged for the opening and closing fees. The Town

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- doesn't have enough staff and is not in a position to have a paid person for Parks & Recreation programs.
- We could ask that anytime we have a Town event with an instructor getting paid, they pay at least \$15 for each session to take care of opening and closing.

MOTION – Commissioner Dugan made the motion, based on the ordinance for the Community Center, that Council authorize funds to pay for opening and closing of Town-sponsored functions.

SECOND – Commissioner Nelder


VOTE – Unanimous

Adjournment

MOTION – Commissioner Nelder made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

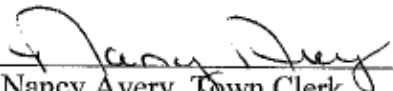
SECOND – Commissioner Swearingen

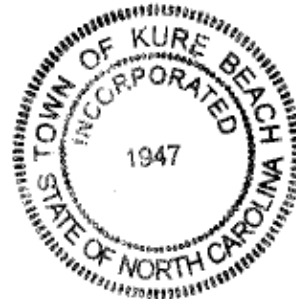
VOTE – Unanimous



Dean Lambeth, Mayor

ATTEST:



Nancy Avery, Town Clerk

NOTE: These are action and summary minutes reflecting items considered and actions taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. Persons wishing to hear the recording of this meeting may request to do so by contacting the Town Clerk.