

KURE BEACH PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2014
KURE BEACH TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES: Joan Van Ham – Chair, Debbie Gonsalves – Vice Chair, Terri Chabot, Tony Gonsalves, Liz Houston, Sara Smith, Mayor Dean Lambeth-Council Liaison, Bob Fitzsimons & Nikki Keely – Recreation Coordinators

ABSENT: Ken & Paula Withrow, Michael Jones

Meeting called to order by Joan Van Ham at 6:30 pm.

Joan welcomed Terri Chabot and Sara Smith, and recognized Tony Gonzales as a permanent member. The Board reviewed and approved the minutes to our last meeting, November 12. An application was reviewed and the board voted to approve Beth Yaccarino for an alternate position.

Joan & Liz enjoyed the December Christmas Show bus trip planned by Paula, including a nice lunch and Jersey Boys show at the Palace Theatre in Myrtle Beach. Everyone on board seemed to enjoy it very much.

Joan attended a retreat with all town department heads and council members. Reviewed last year's concerts and 2014 plans, including discussions on concert times. She was asked to present an overview at the next Town Council meeting on 1/27. Currently we have a \$25,000 budget for all entertainment at the Ocean Front Park (OFP). Joan plans to request an additional \$10,000 to cover the difference for the projected expenses, as well as adding concerts in Sept/Oct.

Food vendor discussions will also be a big topic. Joan followed up with the Health Dept. who said we can have up to 2 food vendors without a special permit. The vendors can be either licensed vendors with the Health Dept. or non-profits (which can only do one event per month in the state). There was much group discussion from the board over possibly allowing a rotation of 4 including: KB Fire Dept, Ocean Rescue, Island Women, Community Center, Boy Scouts, churches, etc. Tony mentioned local businesses are opposed to outside vendors and there was an ordinance enacted that now prevents it.

Joan shared details of her meeting with Nancy Avery, Nikki Keely, and Bob Fitzsimons to discuss 2014 plans. It was decided that the staff will handle programs from last year: Turtle Talks, Tuesday Open Air Markets, Wednesday Story Time by the Sea, etc. and will add new programs. Nikki shared some of the highlights with the board, such as: June 14th New Hanover County Library's Summer Reading Kickoff with a Kids' Music Fest, Ocean Rescue to host weekly beach safety talks, and some Historic Site proposed talks on history, shipwrecks, etc. These new events will be "no-cost to the town" programs. The staff are also adding programs to Joe Eakes Park (JEP) and the Community Center. Our advisory board is responsible for all entertainment at the Ocean Front Park (OFP).

Joan made a motion to continue Boogie in the Park concerts on Sunday afternoons from May 18th – Sept. 1st with a wider variety of bands. There was group discussion over whether to keep the concert times the same, 4 – 7 pm, or making them start later, due to the sun beating down on concert goers in the afternoon. The board voted to continue the concerts, but change the concert times to 5 – 8 pm.

Joan presented her ideas for new events:

1. Friday Night Roulette, which will be a variety of acts such as: magic shows, Big Band, Dixieland Band, and Jersey Boys type groups. There will be 7 of these planned from June 6th – August 29th from 7 – 9 pm. Alternating with Fort Fisher concert series nights.
2. Saturday Night Jam, which will be more low key, probably duets, but with same quality as Roulette or Boogie concerts. There will be 7 of these planned from June 7th – August 30th from 7-9 pm, which will be alternate weeks with Friday night performances.

Joan also mentioned adding more concerts in Sept. and Oct. - working around the Park rentals. Nikki mentioned the dates of three weddings already planned at OFP

Tony mentioned a meeting he had today with local business owners who suggested no special events be planned around high traffic dates, like the 4th of July, due to parking shortages. There was a group discussion on extra parking possibilities, which Tony will work on.

The board members shared many ideas which included:

- Caricature Artists
- Hypnotists
- Speed Painters
- Scavenger Hunts
- Shadow Dancers
- Field Day/Open Rec Nights at Joe Eakes Park (JEP)
- Movie Nights-Beach Themed Classic Movies
- Yoga Classes
- Community Garden at JEP
- Community Center Educational Classes, Tutoring, Local Interests, Social Media, Sign Language

Terri mentioned some local resources she has been researching, such as the Wilmington Renaissance Center.

Sara initiated a mission statement discussion. There will be follow-up to revise it in the future.

There was a motion by Tony to move the monthly meeting time from 6:30 pm to 6:00 pm, that was approved by the board members, subject to council approval.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at 6:00 pm. Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Houston
Secretary