

**Town of East Greenwich
Ad Hoc Community and Senior Center Advisory Committee
Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818
Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

Members present: George Coleman, Joyce Coleman, Grazina Kulawas

Members absent: Helen Friend, Betty Holmander, Maureen Tortolanni

Staff: Erin McAndrew, Carol Tudino

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

The February 3, 2015 minutes were reviewed.

The members reviewed the 2014 statistics and noted that there was an overall increase in the senior programs and case management services and a decrease in the holiday programs from 2013 to 2014.

There will be a Membership Drive during the month of March. The membership fee is \$5 per person/per year. Members receive a monthly newsletter in the mail, a discount on classes and preference when registering for special trips.

Donna Damore, a licensed manicurist, will begin offering manicures at Swift on Wednesday, March 4th. Manicures will be offered every other Wednesday. People need to call Donna to book an appointment. Donna offered manicures last year and took a break during the winter months.

A suggestion was made to charge independent contractors who provide services for the seniors at Swift. The suggestion was to add \$2 per client. For example; manicures cost \$10. The suggestion would increase the price to \$12. The following services are offered at Swift by independent contractors; Beading, Computer Classes, Manicures and Reflexology. Erin does not charge independent contractors to provide services and said she does not think charging them is a good idea. The end result is a higher price for the senior (Manicures = \$10 vs. \$12).

Independent contractors reduce their rates when offering services at Swift. If a senior went to a nail salon, she would pay \$18 or \$20. If the senior has a manicure at Swift, she will pay \$10. The manicurist has reduced her price and if Senior Services adds to the price it affects the senior, not the independent contractor. The Reflexologist charges \$15 for a half an hour appointment. If a senior visited the Reflexologist at her business location, the senior would pay \$30. The Bead Lady charges participants \$10 to cover the cost of materials and time to purchase the materials. If senior services charges \$2 per client, the client loses not the contractor.

Erin said that she provides special services at Swift because seniors request the services. The independent contractors agree to reduce their rates. Erin also said that a senior may come to Swift for a manicure and stay for lunch or an activity, so it increases the number of people using the facility/programs. The Committee Members want to continue the \$2 fee conversation, so it will be added to the March agenda.

A free 4 week Balance & Posture Program will be offered at Swift on Thursdays from 1:15 – 2:00 p.m. from March 12th – April 2nd. The program is sponsored by Performance Physical Therapy, located in East Greenwich. The program will replace the Thursday Sit to be Fit class. Pre-registration is suggested. Participation in the program will determine future classes.

The Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon will be held at Swift at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17th. Tickets will be on sale through March 11th. The lunch start time is not the usual 12:00 p.m., because there is a Parks and Recreation pre-school program in the gym until 11:30 a.m. The staff and volunteers will need time to set-up tables and chairs. Susan McLeod will perform from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

The 11 Year Anniversary Luncheon is scheduled at Swift for 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21st. Mike Dee will perform from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

One of the volunteers that calls Bingo every other Monday told Erin that he can no longer volunteer. Erin told the Bingo participants on February 23rd that the volunteer position is open. Three seniors volunteered to call. Each senior will call one time in March or April to see if they like it and want to volunteer on a permanent basis.

The volunteer that operates the commercial dishwasher on Wednesdays told Erin that he can no longer volunteer. The volunteer opportunity is advertised in the March newsletter.

Free Pickleball Demonstration Days will be offered in the gym on Fridays; March 13th and April 24th. The program will be offered outside, weather permitting, every Friday from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. beginning May 1st. There will be a charge to participate; probably \$2 per person, but the fee has not been established.

The Department used to receive \$3,000 per year from the Salvation Army to help low income families and seniors. The money could be used for heating assistance, food, clothing, etc. In 2014 the Salvation Army decided not to give money directly to cities and towns. In 2015 they gave the money to Community Action Agencies. Each city and town will have to request funds from their local Community Action Agency. The Department is not sure if East Greenwich will receive \$3,000.

The staff would like to sell the billiard table and use the space for a different purpose. Ideas on how to use the space were discussed.

The meeting ended at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled at the Swift Community Center on Tuesday, March 31st at 1:00 p.m.