

MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Task Force
Thursday, June 19, 2014, 10:30am-12noon
MAAA, 2966 White Bear Av, Maplewood, MN 55109

NEXT EVOLVING CONNECTIONS TASK FORCE MEETING: Thursday, July 17, 2014, 10:30-noon, **location TBD.**

Vision

EvolvingConnections supports leadership development for the greater good of communities and the society at large.

Mission

EvolvingConnections is an organization of Evolve alumni and friends that facilitates the ongoing leadership journeys of our members through social, networking, educational, and mentoring opportunities. Our activities will support existing and future leadership projects as well as enhance the vitality and sustainability of the Evolve program and future classes.

Present: Brad Blackett, Joann Ellis, Judy Harvey, Susan Hawkins, Bill Read, Julie Roles
Absent: Merry Roth, Mark Skeie, Kathy Ahlers, Earl McGovern

Recorder: Bill

Misc reminders:

- The EvolvingConnections Task Force has a presence on the web:
<http://evolveleaders.org/evolvingconnections-leadership-group/>
(password is "ec-lead") and all are encouraged to frequently visit the Evolve and EvolvingConnections pages within the VAN website, per se).
- VAN and Evolve have a presence on Facebook, facilitated by Connie Bowen.

Announcements:

- Judy Harvey has joined the Task Force. Kathy Klietz has resigned from the Task Force due to other commitments.
- Judy noted that Evolve classes graduating in 2012 and 2013 (and already this year's 2014 class!) have each had a "reunion" social gathering this spring of their respective groups.

Old Business:

- ***VAN and Evolve updates:*** Julie noted Evolve classes will be held beginning this fall in Roseville, possibly in Bloomington. (Golden Valley is considering a class for fall 2015.)

The Wellness 50+ Evolve groups are continuing in Alexandria, MN, and in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood of St. Paul. The Oakdale class will begin later this year (and, hopefully, the Phillips neighborhood [Mpls] class).

VAN currently has very successful "Catch Healthy Habits" programs in progress in Wilmar and Alexandria.

- Review of ***Happy Hour at Axel's in Roseville*** which took place Fri, May 16, well-attended by Roseville's graduating Evolve class, and a few others. Future happy hours at the same venue are planned (see calendar), all headed up by Kathy Ramundt and open to Evolve class members, EvolvingConnections, VAN, and "friends." Events in other parts of the Twin Cities are under consideration.

- ***Awareness Project (collaborative reading gathering)***: Scheduled for this afternoon (in this MAAA building), but cancelled due to low registration.

ACTION: Susan, Earl, and Joann are the leads. Discussion today centered on clarifying how this event fits our mission and also on reconsidering its name (Awareness Project vs. Book & Brew, vs. ...) and how it is thus perceived in our "marketing." Future events are still planned (see calendar).

- ***EvolvingConnections survey***: No further discussion today

ACTION: (1) All are encouraged to read or re-read this report. Further discussion will be ongoing.

- ***Develop calendar of 2014 activities***: Ongoing. (See the attached Calendar.)

New Business:

- ***Array of EConnections activities***: Free-ranging discussion took place, including "socials" such as the happy hours, tours, etc. Brad mentioned offering "Evolve Phase II" seminars supporting new or enhanced skills. Discussed working even more closely with VAN and Evolve Task Force (as distinct from us - EvolvingConnections Task Force) to support forums, salons, etc.

ACTION: This led us to the importance of clarifying / refining / revising our vision and mission (see below). Agreed to continue with scheduled items on the calendar for now, with further discussion ongoing.

- ***Vision / Mission / "our essence"***: Although not initially on the agenda, discussion spontaneously turned in this direction (refer to the current Vision and Mission statements that are at the top of the Agenda and Minutes documents [including this one] each month).

ACTION: Between now and our next mtg in July, all are encouraged to give thought to refining vision and mission, which we will pursue at that time.

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(SEE ATTACHED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014)

EvolvingConnections

Events Calendar

| Date | Title/Description/Location | Lead | Attendance |
|---------------------|---|---|------------|
| January 2014 | | | |
| February | EC: wine tasting event | Merry Roth | |
| March | | | |
| April | | | |
| May | May 1: VAN/EC May Day gathering _____ May 16: EvolvingConnections social; Axel's in Roseville | Merry Roth _____ Kathy Ramundt | |
| June | June 19: Awareness Project, collaborative reading. Book - The How of Happiness, by Sonja Lyubomirsky. Cancelled - low registration _____ June 26, Thurs., 1-3:00pm VAN forum - Defining Home: Conversations about housing, living, and community | Susan, Earl, Joann _____ | |
| July | July 29: VAN at the Guthrie (My Fair Lady) _____ July 17, Thurs, 1:30-3:30 VAN / MAVA forum: "Passions into Action," re removing the barriers to volunteerism. | _____ | |
| August | Aug 14: EvolvingConnections picnic at Hidden Falls Park in St. Paul. (in lieu of Aug 15 EC social; Julie will let Kathy R know) | Merry and Brad | |
| September | Sept 18: Awareness Project collaborative reading. Details TBD | Susan, Joann, Earl | |

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| October | Oct 16 (tentative): Awareness Project collaborative reading. Details TBD | Susan, Joann, Earl | |
| November | Nov 14: EConnections social | Kathy Ramundt | |
| December | Dec 4: Awareness Project collaborative reading. Details TBD | | |
| January 2015 | | | |
| February | Feb 20: EConnections social | Kathy Ramundt | |
| <i>Pending Ideas</i> | <p>Fulton Brewery tour (eg as VAN fundraiser?)</p> <hr/> <p>Tea tasting at Verdant Tea; board books for toddlers; chocolate tasting event; river cruise</p> | <p>Mark Skeie</p> <hr/> | |