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EvolvingConnections Task Force
Thursday, July 17, 2014, 10:30am - 12 noon
Aging Services of Minnesota, Conference room E
2550 University Avenue West,
Suite 350 South
Saint Paul, MN

NEXT EVOLVING CONNECTIONS TASK FORCE MEETING:

TBD!!! (ordinarily would be Thursday, Aug 21, 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: Georgia Anderson, Brad Blackett, Joann Ellis, Judy Harvey, Susan Hawkins, Bill Read, Julie Roles, Merry Roth

Absent: 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: Julie will be on a MUCH DESERVED (some might say) vacation beginning Fri eve 07.18.2014 thru Tues. 07.29.2014.

Old Business:

- VAN update (Mark and Julie): Catch Healthy Habits (in conjunction with Oasis organization) is being coordinated by Merry Roth in communities of Alexandria and Wilmar, and begins this fall; funding via Bremer Bank. VAN will be hosting "InsideOut" workshops in Bloomington and Roseville in Aug and Sept. (See the VAN website for details.)

- Evolve classes update (Mark and Julie): Bloomington will be a new site for Evolve, with classes in April through Nov, 2015. VAN's Wellness 50+ Evolve program will add Oakdale as a new class later this year.

- EvolvingConnections survey: No further discussion today

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

New Business:

- Picnic at Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul - beginning at 6pm August 14.

ACTION: Brad and Merry are coordinating this. Pot luck. They will be providing Julie with a notice to be sent out very soon.

- Awareness Project - Susan and Joann are considering revising the name to ~ "Book & Brew: The Awareness Project." (See attached calendar with dates, etc.)

ACTION: Susan will clarify time and confirm venue reservations

- Future Happy Hours at Axel's - (See attached calendar with dates, etc.) With ongoing discussion, we're now considering that this Roseville venue could alternate in some fashion with, for example, a Mpls venue (?? Nicollet Island Inn, as was used several times in the past).

ACTION: Bill is asking **Brad and Merry** to work with **Kathy Ramundt** in making suggestions to the EC Task Force as to a workable schedule / format - for example, quarterly social gatherings alternating between the two sites or, as Merry or others suggested at the task force meeting, consider expanding the format to include "meet-ups."

- Refine **calendar of 2014 activities** - See attached calendar.

- ***Vision / Mission / "our essence"***: This was the primary focus of today's agenda, and Judy Harvey provided a printed list of questions that guided the subsequent discussion by the group. Revisions to our existing Vision and Mission statements will ensue, but at this point, discussion is ongoing. Some paraphrased comments included:

EvolvingConnections' bailiwick is quintessentially "cross-classes." That is, creating, maintaining, and expanding connections and exploring shared interests among the past, present, and future Evolve (and ALVA) cohorts.

Mentoring availability is implied, but need not be considered a stated component of our mission.

The social nature of gatherings will serve a networking function, but networking, per se, might be eliminated as a stated component of our mission.

Many people already perceive that they have plenty of "social" in their lives, and may be seeking something beyond this in EvolvingConnections - for example,

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education in some form (perhaps expanding on the "shared interests" referred to above).

We need to be as clear as possible as to "who we are" as EvolvingConnections, and how we interface with VAN or distinguish ourselves from VAN.

ACTION: **Judy Harvey** volunteered to refine the results of today's discussion, with assistance of **Susan**, and to provide the EvolvingConnections Task Force members with suggestions as to the next steps in our vision and mission statements revisions.

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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 17, Thurs, 1:30-3:30 VAN / MAVA forum: "Passions into Action," re removing the barriers to volunteerism. _____ July 29, Tues, 7:30pm: VAN at the Guthrie (My Fair Lady)	Mark Skeie _____	
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. Book: The How of Happiness, by S. Lyubomirsky (at Court International)	Susan, Joann, Earl	
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>	Fulton Brewery tour (eg as VAN fundraiser?) <hr/> Tea tasting at Verdant Tea; board books for toddlers; chocolate tasting event; river cruise; attend Trump Towers... aw, never mind.	Mark Skeie <hr/>	