

MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Task Force
Thursday, Aug 28, 2014, 10:30am - 12 noon
Rondo Community Library
461 Dale St N
St Paul MN 55103

NEXT EVOLVING CONNECTIONS TASK FORCE MEETING:

Sept. 18, 2014, Rondo Community Library, rooms A & B

Vision (newly revised)

The personal connections and community leadership skills formed during Evolve classes will be maintained and further supported after graduation for the benefit of the individuals and the community.

Mission (newly revised)

EvolvingConnections, a task force of Vital Aging Network, is an organization of Evolve alumni and friends. The task force facilitates the ongoing leadership journeys of our members through social or networking events, exploration of mutual interests, and educational opportunities. Our activities will support each other in completing existing and future leadership projects as well as enhance the vitality and sustainability of the Evolve program and future classes.

Present: Judy Harvey, Susan Hawkins, Bill Read, Julie Roles, Earl McGovern

Absent: Georgia Anderson, Brad Blackett, Joann Ellis, Mark Skeie, Kathy Ahlers, Merry Roth

Recorder: Bill

Announcements: We are in the process of scheduling the Rondo Community Library (address in heading above) as our regular ECLTeam meeting location for the near future.

Old Business:

- VAN update (Mark and Julie): (1) Catch Healthy Habits (in conjunction with Oasis organization) is being coordinated by Merry Roth in the communities of Alexandria and Wilmar, and begins this fall; funding via Bremer Bank. (2) VAN will be hosting "InsideOut" workshops in Bloomington and Roseville in Aug and Sept. (See the VAN website for details.) (3) VAN has scheduled Nov 10, 2014, 4-6pm, as the date for a social gathering of the leaders of VAN and its task forces (including EvolvingConnections Task Force. (4) The event "VAN at the Guthrie - My Fair Lady" sold all ~120 tickets.

- Evolve classes update (Mark and Julie): (1) Bloomington will be a new site for Evolve, with classes in April through Nov, 2015. (2) VAN's 50+ Wellness project is

adding the Phillips neighborhood of Mpls and the community of Oakdale to the existing communities (Alexandria and Hamline-Midway) in the program.

- Review of picnic at Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul, Aug 14: There was a total of approx 12 attendees, from various Evolve cohorts. Those who attended felt it was very worthwhile and that we should repeat the event next year, possibly with a food sign-up. Thanks to Brad and Merry for organizing the gathering.

New Business:

- Book & Brew - Susan and Joann and Earl have confirmed some dates, venues, and book titles. (See attached calendar with dates, etc.) Susan suggested that we reassess the program after this cycle as to its overall appeal and contribution to our mission. She also noted the need to address covering expenses (book, drawing materials, snacks). For now, a free-will donation will be requested at some of the events.

- 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; or Urban Growler).

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 - please refer to July's minutes. Judy Harvey refined the results of July's discussion and sent out a suggested revision to all task force members, asking for comments / suggestions, and received none. Those present at today's meeting discussed further revisions and voted to accept the form that appears at the beginning of today's minutes.

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(SEE ATTACHED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014)

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.	Merry and Brad	
September	Sept 18: Book & Brew collaborative reading. Book: The How of Happiness, by S. Lyubomirsky 6-8pm at Northern Clay Center	Susan, Joann, Earl	

EvolvingConnections

Events Calendar

October	Oct 16: Book & Brew collaborative reading. Book: Switch, by C and D Heath Roseville (?library?)	Susan, Joann, Earl	
November	Nov 10, 2014, 4-6pm, social gathering of the leaders of VAN and its task forces Nov 14: EConnections social	Kathy Ramundt	
December	Dec 4: Book & Brew collaborative reading. Book: Second Wind, by Dr. Bill Thomas 1-3pm, Rondo Community Library	Susan, Joann, Earl	
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	Mark Skeie <hr/>	