

MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Leadership Team
Thursday, July 11, 2013, 10:30am
Over Flow Espresso Cafe

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: Susan Hawkins, Bill Read, Julie Roles, Mark Skeie

Absent: Dick Kavaney, Joann Ellis, Janet Jacobson, Merry Roth

Recorder: Bill

NOTE: Apologies to all ECLTeam members for the short notice on the decision to proceed with a previously (at the June mtg) cancelled July ECLTeam meeting.

Misc reminders:

- Julie reactivated the EvolvingConnections Leadership Team button/menu on the VAN website. All are encouraged to frequently visit the Evolve and EvolvingConnections pages within the VAN website. Access to restricted areas is via our VAN ID and PW. (Contact Julie for ID and PW questions / help.)

- Lisa Cook and Julie Roles have worked together to develop an Evolve and EvolvingConnections presence on Facebook, and Connie Bowen (Evolve grad) has agreed to maintain it.

- Kathy Ramundt has resigned from the ECLTeam due to other time commitments, but remains actively involved in VAN and EConnections activities.

Topics of discussion:

- Mark noted that many Evolve grads wish to continue a connection with classmates (or the greater Evolve community) in a variety of ways, some of which might be compatible with EvolvingConnections activities, some not. Understandably, some grads wish to proceed to "do their own things" with projects or endeavors not attached to EvolvingConnections. A variety of Evolve grads have continued group-related activities,

including a North Hennepin class group that still meets socially, a coffee group that originated with grads, a program begun this spring / summer by Kathy Ahlers (currently called Evolve / ALVA Networking Group) meeting monthly Friday mornings at the Wilder Center.

- Susan and Bill will attend Kathy Ahler's networking gathering tomorrow July 12 at Wilder and will discuss with Kathy her interest in working more closely with EConnections especially regarding her networking activity.

- EvolvingConnections is continuing to "evolve," including recognizing the need to improve communication with and outreach to those recent or earlier grads who might wish to integrate their activities with the greater Evolve community. We need to better address the question "How do we get people to recognize that EvolvingConnections exists?" (One possibility: ECLTeam members might have a presence at then-current Evolve classes.) Julie and Susan noted EConnections might best be viewed as a central integrator with contributions from a variety of nodes feeding into it.

- Recognizing the "differing gifts" and talents of people, EConnection could assist in teaming up talented facilitators with creative / "idea people" to work together in, for example, presenting a Salon under the EConnection "umbrella."

- Regarding the EConnections Socials, a more consistent and committed schedule should be pursued, and we should be comfortable with attendance even by small numbers.

- Potential additions to the ECLeadership Team were discussed.

- The salon concept as adapted by EConnections might benefit from clarifying some parameters that assist in developing our chosen format.

NEXT LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING: Thursday, August 15, 2013, 10:30-noon, Over Flow Espresso Cafe, 2929 University Ave SE, Mpls MN 55414.

Calendar of Activities
(not discussed at this meeting)

August 9, Friday 9:30-11:30am	Do-it-Ourselves Workshop (Evolve / ALVA Networking Group), Wilder Center, facilitated by Kathy Ahlers
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<p>August 20, Tuesday</p> <p>(gather around 7pm at Target Lounge</p>	<p>VAN at the Guthrie – Pride and Prejudice; We can use the Target Lounge for a gathering place.</p> <p>(Mark and Dick are in charge)</p>
<p>September 10, Tuesday</p> <p>5:30 to 8:30</p>	<p>Book & Brew</p> <p><i>The How of Happiness</i> by Sonja Lyubomirsky, and <i>The Lonely American</i> by Jaclyn Olds are two books under consideration. Another possibility is <i>Encore</i>, by Marcy Albohar. Facilitated by Susan Hawkins, et al.</p> <p>Court International lower level conference room, 2550 University Avenue, Saint Paul, MN.</p>
<p>September ?</p> <p>(TENTATIVE)</p>	<p>Salon on Making and Maintaining Meaningful Social Connections – Location TBD. Led by Lisa Cook and Kathy Ramundt.</p> <p>[This came out of a discussion of loneliness issues especially during the holiday season.]</p>
<p>October 22</p> <p>5:30 to 7 or so</p> <p>(Not discussed at this meeting)</p>	<p>EvolvingConnections Social – Location TBD (Salut or Nicollet Island Inn) HOSTESS: Joann - with assistance of Bill</p>