

MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Task Force
Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, 10:30am - 12 noon
Rondo Community Library
461 Dale St N, rooms A & B
St Paul MN 55103

NEXT EVOLVING CONNECTIONS TASK FORCE MEETING:

Feb. 19, 2015, 10:30 - 12 noon, Rondo Community Library, rooms A & B

Vision

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

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: Brad Blackett, Judy Harvey, Julie Roles, Georgia Anderson, Merry Roth, Mark Skeie, Bill Read

Absent: Kathy Ahlers, Joann Ellis, Earl McGovern

Recorder: Bill

Announcements:

- (1) The Dec Task Force meeting was cancelled; hence, no minutes.
- (2) Julie and Mark clarified that they view themselves as ex officio participants in the EvolvingConnections Task force.
- (3) Judy and Bill acknowledged significant recent input from Kathy Ahlers, who was unable to attend today, in formulating some of the New Business items. In addition, Judy suggested the concept of "proposals" in EC Task Force discussions (see New Business).
- (4) A special note of thanks is expressed for the volunteer hours Susan and Joann have put into running the Book & Brew over the past several years as part of EvolvingConnections activities.
- (5) Bill will be absent for the February ECTask Force meeting, and Georgia volunteered to chair the meeting with backup from Judy.

Regular Business:

- VAN update (Mark and Julie): (1) The VAN board has recently added some new members. (2) There is consideration of extending the Catch Healthy Habits program to Brainerd. (3) The Aging with Gusto program is ongoing.

- Evolve classes update (Mark and Julie): The Roseville Evolve class has 11 (initially 12) students. Merry has been assisting with mentoring some in the group. (2) Bloomington is on track to become a new site for Evolve, with classes in April through Nov, 2015. **Recruitment** for the Bloomington class is ongoing.

ACTION: Any assistance with recruitment is greatly appreciated.

- Book & Brew: Bill met with facilitator Susan Hawkins Dec 22, 2014. Susan reported that the Dec 5 gathering at Rondo Library was very well attended. Of the desired \$50 per event desired to cover expenses, \$21 was taken in as free-will donation (\$28 at the Nov. event, \$11 at the Sept. event). Co-facilitator Joann Ellis will be leading a Book & Brew Feb 19, 2015. Other gatherings are tentatively scheduled for March, May, Sept., and Oct. 2015. Susan clarified that since the beginning of Book & Brew activities sponsored by EvolvingConnections, she and Joann have provided their time gratis, but beginning in 2016, Susan will not be able to continue offering her time for free. She is asking that, eg in late 2015, EConnections Task Force reassess the "fit" of Book & Brew in meeting EConnections' mission and thence whether and how it might then be continued.

ACTION: (1) In addition to the request for a free-will donation at each gathering, Julie re-confirmed today that VAN would make up the difference of the approx \$50 expenses per event for a maximum of 5 events in calendar year 2015. Susan and Joann will need to send a request for reimbursement to Julie.

(2) Julie is asked to send announcements of each upcoming Book & Brew to the entire VAN email group, at least as part of the VAN newsletters.

(3) Bill will pass on to Susan and Joann the request that the results of an evaluation filled out by attendees at the end of each event be forwarded to ECTask Force to assist in the end-of-year assessment suggested by Susan.

- Future Happy Hours: Kathy Ramundt had committed to host the Feb. 20, 2015 gathering at Axel's in Roseville. After discussion at this ECTF meeting, however, we planned the following actions.

ACTION: (1) Julie will contact Kathy about possibly changing to a Minneapolis venue, an option discussed by Merry and Brad for Tuesday Feb 17 or 24. Under consideration are Town Hall Lanes and the new Surly Brewery.

(2) At the next ECTF meeting in February, we will add tentative June and October dates to our calendar.

- Yearly VAN / EvolvingConnections May Day event: Discussion is ongoing. This will continue as a collaboration between VAN and EvolvingConnections, but the format and venue are currently fluid. Interested volunteers are also being solicited through the VAN and Evolve newsletters, and some new VAN board members have expressed interest in helping. Merry is considering a major role again this year.

- Summer / Fall "yearly" EvolvingConnections picnic: No further discussion (see calendar).

- Refine **calendar of 2015 activities**: See attached calendar.

New Business:

- PROPOSAL: EvolvingConnections Task Force will adopt a 'Template for Proposals.'

Judy provided a "proposed template" and discussion revolved around the usefulness of providing structure and "ownership" to programs and other significant actions requested of / brought before the task force.

ACTION: (1) The proposal **passed**, based on the format presented by Judy (copy attached with these minutes).

(2) Bill volunteered to work with Julie Roles on some of the documentation and technology issues involved as we pursue this added structure, including developing an online "fillable PDF" of the template for submitting future proposals, and (searchable?) posting / archiving of pertinent ECTask Force documents.

- PROPOSAL: An EvolvingConnections representative will attend meetings of the VAN board of directors.

This is in response to a tentative invitation from Julie Roles, and pertains to a member of ECTask Force's attendance to provide a report of EConnections and respond to questions. (The meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month, 3-5pm, at Court International, room 150S.)

ACTION: (1) The proposal **passed** ECTask Force, pending acceptance by the VAN board.

(2) Judy volunteered to provide this essentially liaison role for 3 monthly meetings of the VAN board, and then to reassess. Merry volunteered as an alternate.

- PROPOSAL: An EvolvingConnections representative will attend any Evolve classes' final meetings or "graduation" to welcome them to EvolvingConnections and provide information / answer questions about our activities.

The Roseville Evolve class has its final session May 8. Including the Wellness 50+ Evolve classes was discussed as well.

ACTION: (1) The proposal **passed**.

(2) Brad and Merry volunteered to coordinate this, in consultation with Julie and specific Evolve class facilitators.

- PROPOSAL: Develop an EvolvingConnections newsletter.

ACTION: Due to lack of time for further discussion at this meeting and lack of an identifiable "owner," this was not pursued further and was tabled.

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(SEE ATTACHED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2015)

EvolvingConnections Events Calendar

Month	Date / Title / Description / Location	Lead
January 2015	Jan 15, Thurs. EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon	
February	<p>Feb 19, Thurs. EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>Feb 19, Thurs: Book & Brew, repeat session of <u>Second Wind</u>, by Bill Thomas. Roseville Library, 6:30-8:30.</p> <hr/> <p>Previously scheduled Feb 20 EConnections social [Happy Hour at Axel's in Roseville] will probably be changed to: Feb 17 or 24 (Tue)</p>	<hr/> <p>Joann Ellis</p> <hr/> <p>Kathy Ramundt, Merry, and Brad</p>
March	<p>March 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>March 19, Thurs: (Tentative) Book & Brew, Lunds downtown</p>	<hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
April	<p>April 16, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>??April 30 (or May 1) Annual May Day event???</p>	<hr/> <p>All</p>

May	<p>(Thurs April 30 or Fri May 1) Annual May Day event</p> <hr/> <p>May 21, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>May 21, Thurs: Book & Brew</p>	<p>"full team" - including expressed interest by Joann</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
June	<p>(tentative) EvolvingConnections social gathering</p> <hr/> <p>July 18, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	<p>Merry and Brad</p> <hr/>
July	<p>July 16, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	
August	<p>2nd Annual Evolving Connections Picnic Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul August 13, 2015</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 20, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	
September	<p>Sept 17, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>Sept 17 or 24, Thurs, 6:30-8:30pm: Book & Brew</p>	<hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
October	<p>(tentative) EvolvingConnections social gathering</p> <hr/> <p>Oct 15, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>Oct 22, Thurs, 1-3:00pm: Book & Brew</p>	<p>Merry and Brad</p> <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
November	<p>Nov 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	

December	<i>Dec 17, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</i>	
<i>Pending Ideas</i>	<p>St. Croix Festival Theater event</p> <hr/> <p>Fulton Brewery tour (eg as VAN fund-raiser?)</p> <hr/> <p>Tea tasting at Verdant Tea; board books for toddlers; chocolate tasting event; river cruise; Northern Clay center "clay play" event</p>	<p>Georgia & Judy</p> <hr/> <p>Mark</p> <hr/>