

# MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Task Force  
Thursday, March 19, 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:**

Apr 16, 2015, 10:30 - 12 noon, Rondo Community Library, rooms A & B

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### **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.

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Present: Brad Blackett, Judy Harvey, Georgia Anderson, Bill Read

Absent: Kathy Ahlers, Joann Ellis, Earl McGovern, Merry Roth. (Julie and Mark agreed, as ex officio members, not to attend this special focus session.)

Recorder: Bill

**Announcements:** As planned, we spent the great majority of this meeting on a self-reflection exercise.

### **New Business:**

- **Self-reflection exercise focusing on the broad question "How are we (EvolvingConnections Task Force) doing as a committee?"** Facilitated by Judy, at Bill's request. Format included 11 category posters as a starting point to collect opinions and suggestions from the four ECTForce members present. Categories to which we responded: (1) We exist to... (2) We're successful with... (3) We're struggling with... (4) We're discontented with... (5) We should increase... (6) We should decrease... (7) Our number one strength is... (8) Our number one road-block is... (9) I can give \_\_\_ hours per month... (10) Our 2015 priority should be... (11) Other observations... Participants then wrote comments on sticky notes and matched them to each category. The 11 cate-

gory pages were then divided up and summarized in writing and then aloud by the 4 participants. **ACTION:** Judy will tally and write up the results. Further discussion and clarification of "recurring themes" / issues will occur at future EvolvingConnections Task Force monthly meetings, action steps will be prioritized, and actions taken.

- **Proposal:** "Cultivating Our Evolve Community Network." Submitted by Brad. NOTE: Brad sent out an email Feb 22 with this info including an attached PDF. Please refer to that. Discussion centered around (1) Judy's acknowledgement that today's ECTF self-reflection activity drew on and benefited from Brad's proposal, and (2) his desire to "get something on the table" to discuss who we are and where we are as a task force. **ACTION:** After appropriate motions, the proposal was **tabled** for future review.

### **Old Business:**

- Book & Brew: Thurs eve (tonight) March 19 - cancelled due to low registration. See calendar for additional scheduled gatherings.

- Happy Hours social gatherings: Merry and Brad hosted the March 10 gathering at Town Hall Lanes. Attendees 3-4 in addition to Brad, Merry, Julie, Mark . Kathy Ramundt hosted at Axel's in Roseville on Fri Feb 20. She reported by email that there were 2 attendees in addition to 4 ECTF/VAN attendees. **Kathy noted she now would not be able to commit to hosting Roseville happy hours** due to her full time job.

- ECTF liason to VAN board: Judy has agreed to serve as the liason for the next 3 VAN meetings.

- VAN update: The May VAN gathering / fundraiser ("Spring Celebration"), Sunday, May 3: all should have received formal notices of this by email. Georgia and Merry are members of the committee. See calendar, below.

- Evolve class update: The Bloomington class is set to begin April 1.

- Refine calendar of 2015 activities: See attached calendar.

- PENDING: from Feb ECTF mtg, and postponed from today's or other meetings - (1) database of Evolve graduates (Julie and Georgia); (2) EvolvingConnections information card to be available for Evolve class when ECTF representatives attend the last day of class (Judy and Merry); (3) possible call-a-thon to facilitate attendance at VAN's Spring Celebration of May 3 (Brad - who mentioned he would contact Lisa Cook). (4) Proposal to discuss Board Boot Camp training offered by MAP for Nonprofits (Kathy Ahlers). (5) Recruitment of new ECTask Force members.

- Existing **tabled** proposals: (1) EvolvingConnections newsletter. (2) "Cultivating our Evolve Community Network."

**NEXT EVOLVING CONNECTIONS TASK FORCE MEETING:**

Thurs, April 16, 2015, 10:30-12 noon, Rondo Community Library, rooms A & B, 461 Dale St. N, St. Paul, MN 55103

**(SEE ATTACHED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2015)**

## EvolvingConnections Events Calendar

| Month        | Date / Title / Description / Location  | Lead   |
|--------------|--|--|
| January 2015 | <b>Jan 15, Thurs. EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b>   |  |
| February     | <p>_____</p> <p>Feb 19, Thurs: Book &amp; Brew, repeat session of <u>Second Wind</u>, by Bill Thomas. Roseville Library, 6:30-8:30.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Feb 20, Fri, 4-6pm: EConnections social [Happy Hour at Axel's in Roseville]</p>  | <p>_____</p> <p>Joann Ellis</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Kathy Ramundt</p>                    |
| March        | <p>March 10, Tues, 4-6pm: EConnections social [Happy Hour at Town Hall Lanes</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>March 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>March 19, Thurs, 6:30-8:30pm: Book &amp; Brew discussing 'Live Long, Die Short.' At Byerly's, St. Louis Park. CANCELLED due to low registration.</p> | <p>Merry and Brad</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p> |
| April        | <b>April 16, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b>   |  |

|           |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|
| May       | <p>May 3, Sunday, 2-5pm: 'Celebrate Spring' - VAN social and fund raiser; Swedish American Institute</p> <hr/> <p><b>May 21, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p> <hr/> <p>May 21, Thurs: Book &amp; Brew</p> | <p>Georgia and Merry from ECTF; others.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p> |
| June      | <p>(tentative) EvolvingConnections social gathering</p> <hr/> <p><b>June 18, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>   | <p>Merry and Brad</p> <hr/>  |
| July      | <p><b>July 16, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>   |  |
| August    | <p>2nd Annual Evolving Connections Picnic<br/>Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul<br/>August 13, 2015</p> <hr/> <p><b>Aug 20, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>  |  |
| September | <p><b>Sept 17, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p> <hr/> <p>Sept 17 or 24, Thurs, 6:30-8:30pm: Book &amp; Brew</p>   | <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>   |
| October   | <p>(tentative) EvolvingConnections social gathering</p> <hr/> <p><b>Oct 15, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p> <hr/> <p>Oct 22, Thurs, 1-3:00pm: Book &amp; Brew</p>  | <p>Merry and Brad</p> <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>                             |
| November  | <p><b>Nov 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>  |  |

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