

MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Task Force
Thursday, May 21, 2015, 10:30am - 12 noon
Rondo Community Library
461 Dale St N, rooms A & B
St Paul MN 55103

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: Georgia, Judy, Julie, Mark, Bill, guest Kris Gjerde (subsequently welcomed as a Task Force member)

Absent: Brad, Earl, Kathy

Recorder: Bill

Announcements:

- Two grads of the 2015 Roseville Evolve class have expressed interest in joining the task force, and Kris Gjerde, one of the two, attended today's meeting
- April's ECTForce meeting had only 3 attendees, so no business was conducted.
- Merry and Joann have resigned from ECTask Force due to other commitments. We thank them both for their many contributions over the past several years! Joann remains available for "special assignments" (including continuing as a facilitator for Book & Brew)
- Kathy reported by email that she would not be available to attend meetings until the fall.

New Business:

- Minutes of 03.19.2015 were approved. (April mtg did not have a quorum.)
- Book & Brew: Event scheduled for May 21, facilitated by Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis, was cancelled due to insufficient registration
- Happy Hours update: None currently scheduled
- Evolve class update: Brad attended the Roseville class's graduation day lunch, representing ECTF and inviting their participation in EvolvingConnections activities.

More specifically, he handed out an EConnections informational sheet and invited any interested in serving on the task force to contact Bill (and two did as noted above).

- VAN update: Judy, ECTF liaison to VAN board, attended the most recent meeting of ~ 20 people. A detailed update of VAN activities has been emailed to each member of this ECTask Force. It was moved and seconded that Judy continue as liaison.
- Based on the March 19 EvolvingConnections Task Force self-reflection exercise, we initially planned to focus today on one category from that exercise (*Our 2015 priority should be: ...*) and the common theme that arose in the discussion: **Recruit more task force members.** With Kris' willingness to become a task force member, and strong interest expressed by another 2015 Evolve grad, this topic was "defused" for the moment, and we added and pursued another *2015 priority item* from the March ECTF self-reflection meeting as follows:
 - **How do we establish and maintain connections within and among Evolve classes.** It was noted that some regular gatherings of varying size already occur within certain class groups (per reports from Kathy Ahlers, Judy Harvey, and Bill Read), but to this point, EvolvingConnections has struggled to cultivate connections among several classes. Kris noted EConnections needs a "hook," something worthwhile (value added) for grads to seek through EvolvingConnections participation. Today there was much interest in and discussion of a possible regularly scheduled (monthly? quarterly?) EvolvingConnections 8:30-10am "breakfast club" with a format of, eg, brief presentations of two projects (new or old, possibly by someone specifically requesting input) and then opening up for discussion, socializing, networking. The current roadblock appears to be finding a suitable free / inexpensive venue. Further points related to this discussion: (1) An Excel spreadsheet is now posted on the evolveleaders.org webpage listing names and project descriptions of class participants from 2009-2014. (2) Julie mentioned that Evolve facilitator Carol Kronholm may be setting up a list of "project help requests" that might be fielded by grads.
- Refine **calendar of 2015 activities**
 - 2nd Annual EvolvingConnections picnic: Aug 13, Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul. "Owned by all ECTask Force members" but with Judy Harvey volunteering to coordinate. Thoughts included NOT asking participants to bring specific food categories (leaving it open to each to decide); requesting at least a sign-up. **ACTION:** Bill will contact last year's leads, Merry and Brad, for any "pearls" from their experience, including ?need for reservation.

Old Business:

- Pending proposals: (no further discussion or action today)

(a) Book & Brew as a supported program of EvolvingConnections (Susan Hawkins)

(b) Board Boot Camp: as suggested by Kathy Ahlers

NEXT LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:

Thursday June 18, 2014, 10:30am-12:00 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	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>Feb 20, Fri, 4-6pm: EConnections social [Happy Hour at Axel's in Roseville]</p>	<hr/> <p>Joann Ellis</p> <hr/> <p>Kathy Ramundt</p>
March	<p>March 10, Tues, 4-6pm: EConnections social [Happy Hour at Town Hall Lanes]</p> <hr/> <p>March 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>March 19, Thurs, 6:30-8:30pm: Book & Brew discussing 'Live Long, Die Short.' At Byerly's, St. Louis Park. CANCELLED due to low registration.</p>	<p>Merry and Brad</p> <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
April	April 16, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon	

<p>May</p>	<p>May 3, Sunday, 2-5pm: 'Celebrate Spring' - VAN social and fund raiser; Swedish American Institute</p> <hr/> <p>May 21, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>May 21, Thurs, 6:30-8:30pm: Book & Brew discussing 'Live Long, Die Short.' At Byerlys & Lunds, downtown Minneapolis. CANCELLED due to low registration.</p>	<p>Georgia and Merry from ECTF; others.</p> <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
<p>June</p>	<p>(tentative) EvolvingConnections social gathering</p> <hr/> <p>June 18, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	<p>Brad</p> <hr/>
<p>July</p>	<p>July 16, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	
<p>August</p>	<p>Aug 13, Thurs, 5:30-8:30pm, 2nd Annual Evolving Connections Picnic Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul</p> <hr/> <p>Aug 20, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	<p>All, with coordination by Judy</p> <hr/>
<p>September</p>	<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>	<p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
<p>October</p>	<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>Brad</p> <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
<p>November</p>	<p>Nov 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	
<p>December</p>	<p>Dec 17, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	

**Pending
Ideas**

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; "Meet ups"; mentoring; cooking class (Midtown Global Market)

