

MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Task Force
Thursday, (rescheduled for) June 25, 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, Brad, Bill

Absent: Earl, Kathy, Kris

Recorder: Bill

Announcements:

- This meeting was rescheduled from June 18 due to schedule conflicts for several task force members.

New Business:

- Minutes of 05.21.2015 were approved.
- 2nd Annual EvolvingConnections picnic:
Hidden Falls, Aug 13, 5:30-8:30pm. Bill reported that he had communicated by email with Merry Roth and Brad for any suggestions they might have based on their experience "heading up" last year's picnic. Merry noted that we did not reserve anything at the park. (After today's meeting, Bill found out that a reservation for the shelter is \$70, so he canceled the reservation). It will be in the open at one of the picnic table sites (but a kiosk-type shelter will be procured). Julie will send out the flyer based on last year's format. Attendees will bring food to grill and a dish to pass. Provision of supplies:
 - Bill: charcoal, ketchup, lawn games
 - Mark: sour (really) kraut
 - Georgia: chips
 - Brad: plates, cups, charcoal
 - Judy: mustard
 - Julie: silverware (sterling), matches

Core topic for discussion at this meeting (based on topics developed from the March self-reflection exercise): **How do we establish and maintain connections within and among Evolve classes?**

Julie provided a handout of the results of a "staying connected" Post-It note brainstorming session by the recently graduated Roseville class. (A copy will be sent to task force members by email although those present received a copy.)

Discussed perceived (or definitional) differences between a VAN forum and an EvolvingConnections salon.

Discussed ways to communicate amongst the larger Evolve and Evolve Leaders community. Julie noted this is currently possible via the evolveleaders.org website. The mechanism for this will be further clarified.

Discussed ways to make EvolvingConnections known to each new Evolve class. Suggestions included

- (1) Have an EvolvingConnections Task Force member introduce our organization, by invitation, early in the class schedule.
- (2) Emphasize, in class, the availability of EConnections members to provide "first-hand" experiences in developing projects.
- (3) Reinforce the concept of "connectedness" by "strongly encouraging" (or gently requiring) current class participants to review the names and brief project descriptions of Evolve alumni.
- (4) Judy initially volunteered to write a proposal for setting up (possibly) quarterly interactive EvolvingConnections salons (possibly) with a "brown bag" lunch format, with a defined topic and presenter. **ACTION:** This was effectively tabled for the present.

- Book & Brew: No new information
- Evolve class update: No further discussion
- VAN update: No further discussion
- Refine **calendar of 2015 activities:** No further discussion

Old Business:

- Pending proposals: No further discussion or action today

NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING:

Thursday July 16, 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	

May	<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/> <hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
June	<p>(tentative) EvolvingConnections social gathering</p> <hr/> <p>June 18, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	<p>Brad</p> <hr/>
July	<p>July 16, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	
August	<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</p> <hr/>
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>Oct 15, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p> <hr/> <p>Oct 22, Thurs, 1-3:00pm: Book & Brew</p>	<hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
November	<p>Nov 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</p>	
December	<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)

