

# MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Task Force  
Thursday, (rescheduled for) July 16, 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.

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Present: Brad, Kris, Bill

Absent: Earl, Kathy, Judy, Georgia

Recorder: Bill

## Announcements:

- Judy Harvey clarified to Bill, by email after today's meeting, that she is resigning from the task force, noting that her passions currently lie in her other volunteer commitments. We thank her for her many significant contributions to this group over the past several months.

## New Business:

- Minutes of 06.25.2015 were approved.
- 2nd Annual EvolvingConnections picnic:  
Hidden Falls, Aug 13, 5:30-8:30pm. Julie has sent 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, lawn games
  - Mark: sour (really) kraut
  - Georgia: chips
  - Brad: plates, cups, additional "back-up" charcoal, napkins
  - Julie: silverware (sterling), matches
  - Kris: condiments (ketchup, mustard, onions, pickles, etc.)

Kris, Brad, and Bill committed to contacting, at least by email, each member of their respective classes with a personal invitation to attend (including a link to Julie's "published" invitation).

Members of the task force are asked to arrive by no later than 4:30 to set up for the gathering.

- **Bill reviewed with those present today the history of EvolvingConnections** (formerly ALVAConnections) from its inception in the spring of 2009 up to the present. It was emphasized that Julie and Mark were invited to become part of (what eventually became) the task force at a point when EvolvingConnections was faltering, and that their contributions re-energized the group and helped clarify how EvolvingConnections could contribute to the wider Evolve class and VAN missions. In particular, Bill noted that Julie and Mark always "showed up" for meetings and activities.
- **Bill discussed his meeting with Julie on July 8**, at which a decision was made to consider transitioning the EvolvingConnections Task Force. Bill presented to Julie **(a)** his own perception (which included earlier input from others on the task force) that it is time for EvolvingConnections to "fledge" from VAN's nest in order to discern once and for all whether we, the remaining members of the current task force, wish to make the push for EvolvingConnections to "fly" under our own energy / effort / creativity. Other options Bill and Julie discussed included **(b)** continuing with the current task force format and **(c)** dissolving the task force without a replacement format. Bill explained to the group today that he had basically taken the liberty (admittedly, perhaps prematurely), as one of the originators and the current "chief," to leave it with Julie that we are at this point no longer a VAN task force. The meeting was truly amicable.
- Those present today agreed in principle to no longer functioning as a task force of VAN and to proceeding with the course discussed in (a), above. However, since there were insufficient members present for a formal vote, further discussion will take place at August's meeting.
- Kris reiterated that as a new member of this group, she feels we need to identify a purpose beyond "social" that meets the needs of current, future, and past Evolve participants and offers a reason for them to participate in EvolvingConnections. It is imperative that the existence of, and availability of support from, EvolvingConnections be known to the VAN Board as well as, especially, to Evolve class members early in their class schedules. Kris noted that EvolvingConnections would be an outstanding resource for Evolve participants as they work to define a project to undertake.
- Book & Brew: No new information
- Evolve class update: No further discussion

- VAN update: No further discussion
- Refine **calendar of 2015 activities**: No further discussion
- Pending proposals: No further discussion or action today

**NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING:**

Thursday August 20, 2015, 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)**

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## 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><b>Feb 19, Thurs. EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p> <hr/> <p>Feb 19, Thurs: Book &amp; 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><b>March 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p> <hr/> <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> <hr/> <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, 6:30-8:30pm: Book &amp; Brew discussing 'Live Long, Die Short.' At Byerlys &amp; 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><b>June 18, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>	<p>Brad</p> <hr/>
July	<p><b>July 16, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>	
August	<p>Aug 13, Thurs, 5:30-8:30pm, 2nd Annual Evolving Connections Picnic Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul</p> <hr/> <p><b>Aug 20, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>	<p>All</p> <hr/>
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><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>	<hr/> <p>Susan Hawkins and Joann Ellis</p>
November	<p><b>Nov 19, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>	
December	<p><b>Dec 17, Thurs: EC Task Force meeting, 10:30-12 noon</b></p>	

**Pending  
Ideas**

St. Croix Festival Theater event

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Georgia & Judy

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Fulton Brewery tour (eg as VAN fund-raiser?)

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Mark

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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)

