

# MINUTES

EvolvingConnections Task Force  
Thursday, Sept 18, 2014, 10:30am - 12 noon  
Rondo Community Library  
461 Dale St N  
St Paul MN 55103

## **NEXT EVOLVING CONNECTIONS TASK FORCE MEETING:**

Oct. 16, 2014, Rondo Community Library, rooms A & B

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### ***Vision (newly revised)***

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 (newly revised)***

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: Judy Harvey, Susan Hawkins, Bill Read, Julie Roles, Earl McGovern, Georgia Anderson, Brad Blackett

Absent: Joann Ellis, Mark Skeie, Kathy Ahlers, Merry Roth

Recorder: Bill

**Announcements:** None

### **Old Business:**

- VAN update (Mark and Julie): (1) Catch Healthy Habits (in conjunction with Oasis organization) is being coordinated by Merry Roth in the communities of Alexandria and Wilmar, and begins this fall; funding via Bremer Bank. (2) VAN will be hosting "InsideOut" workshops in Bloomington and Roseville in Aug and Sept. (See the VAN website for details.) (3) Aging with Gusto is ongoing. (4) Mapping Your Retirement is scheduled for this fall. (5) VAN is scheduling a date in Nov (6th??), probably 4-6pm, for an "joint appreciation" social gathering of the leaders of VAN and its task forces (including EvolvingConnections Task Force).

- Evolve classes update (Mark and Julie): (1) Recruiting is on-going for the Roseville Evolve class to begin this fall. **ACTION:** Julie is requesting our help in recruiting stu-

dents (see below) (2) Bloomington will be a new site for Evolve, with classes in April through Nov, 2015. (3) VAN's 50+ Wellness project is adding the Phillips neighborhood of Mpls and the community of Oakdale to the existing communities (Alexandria and Hamline-Midway) in the program. (4) Julie handed out a compilation of data regarding the demographics of the (ALVA and) Evolve classes from 2008 through spring 2014. (5) The current Wellness 50+ Evolve students will have a kick-off event with the new students on Nov 5.

- Book & Brew: Has an event this evening at Northern Clay Center.

- Consider including the Wellness 50+ Evolve students in EvolvingConnections communications and activities: Discussed. Julie noted that these students have access to all Evolve and EvolvingConnections info on the VAN and Evolve webpages. **ACTION:** Julie will consider the advisability of this from a potential "information over-load" perspective, given the specialized nature of that group's focus, and we will discuss at our next ECTF mtg.

- Future Happy Hours: See calendar. **ACTION:** As confirmed by Brad today, **Brad and Merry** will work with **Kathy Ramundt** in making suggestions to the EC Task Force as to a workable schedule / format - for example, quarterly social gatherings alternating between the two sites.

### **New Business:**

- Refine **calendar of 2014 activities:** See attached calendar.

- **Vision / Mission / "our essence":** In preparation for today's mtg, Judy sent out an email suggesting that we

*"prepare an action plan for 2015. Could we map the vision and mission to specific KINDS of events we want to do next year? The next steps after that could be creating an event plan for the year. Do we want one event per month? One every other month? Quarter? What kinds of events are task force members willing to work on? BTW what is the time commitment for being on the task force, one year?"*

Discussion centered on developing a list of descriptors to use in assessing current and potential ECTF activities as to how well any given item fits our Vision or Mission. As a rough beginning, it was suggested that each item could be assessed as fitting any or all of the following (A through G):

- A Social or networking
- B Exploration of mutual interests
- C Educational opportunity
- D Maintenance of personal connections developed in Evolve classes
- E Maintenance of community leadership skills
- F Support of one another in completing past or future projects

G Enhance the vitality and sustainability of the Evolve program

**ACTION:** Wordsmiths can feel free to go to town on this, and all should be prepared to discuss further at our October ECTF meeting. Judy will do an initial refinement and send it out to us.

- **Recruitment for future Evolve classes:** Julie noted ongoing difficulties finding enrollees to commit to each new class, in spite of it's being very clear that those who complete an Evolve class are generally very pleased with the results. Julie and Brad mentioned examples of some gatherings in the metro and outstate areas (eg, the fall 2014 SALT [Senior Adults Learning Together], or The 2014 Women's Congress for Future Generations) that might provide productive venues using, for example, two Evolve grads / EC Task Force members to "staff a table" to provide information and to answer questions. Brad suggested having an Evolve banner for such activities. **ACTION:** ECTF members are asked to bring suggestions to our next mtg of known scheduled venues / seminars / gatherings that might prove fruitful in future recruiting efforts.

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(SEE ATTACHED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2014 / 2015)

## EvolvingConnections Events Calendar

Date	Title/Description/Location	Lead	Attendance
January <b>2014</b>			
February	EC: wine tasting event	Merry Roth	
March			
April			
May	May 1: VAN/EC May Day gathering <hr/> May 16: EvolvingConnections social; Axel's in Roseville	Merry Roth <hr/> Kathy Ramundt	
June	June 19: Awareness Project, collaborative reading. Book - The How of Happiness, by Sonja Lyubomirsky. Cancelled - low registration <hr/> June 26, Thurs., 1-3:00pm VAN forum - Defining Home: Conversations about housing, living, and community	Susan, Earl, Joann <hr/>	
July	July 17, Thurs, 1:30-3:30 VAN / MAVA forum: "Passions into Action," re removing the barriers to volunteerism. <hr/> July 29, Tues, 7:30pm: VAN at the Guthrie (My Fair Lady)	Mark Skeie <hr/>	
August	Aug 14: EvolvingConnections picnic at Hidden Falls Park in St. Paul.	Merry and Brad	

September	Sept 18: Book & Brew collaborative reading. Book: The How of Happiness, by S. Lyubomirsky 6-8pm at Northern Clay Center	Susan, Joann, Earl	
October	Oct -- : Book & Brew collaborative reading. Book: Switch, by C and D Heath (Venue and date/time pending)	Susan, Joann, Earl	
November	Nov 6(?), 2014, 4-6pm, "appreciation" social gathering of the leaders of VAN and its task forces <hr/> Nov 14: EConnections social	VAN <hr/> Kathy Ramundt	
December	Dec 4: Book & Brew collaborative reading. Book: Second Wind, by Dr. Bill Thomas 1-3pm, Rondo Community Library	Susan, Joann, Earl	
January <b>2015</b>			
February	Feb 20: EConnections social	Kathy Ramundt	
August	2nd Annual ECTF Uproarious Picnic		
<b>Pending Ideas</b>	Fulton Brewery tour (eg as VAN fundraiser?) <hr/> Tea tasting at Verdant Tea; board books for toddlers; chocolate tasting event; river cruise; Northern Clay center "clay play" event	Mark Skeie <hr/>	