

ATTACHMENT 2

D R A F T Minutes
Wider Horizons Board of Directors
Facilitator: Debbie Ward

Monday, June 12, 2023
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

President’s Report, Nancy Hooyman

Nancy shared with us the message of an excellent book she has read recently: *Bittersweet* by Susan Cain. Cain writes of how closely connected are feelings of joy and sorrow; grief and appreciation for all that life shows us. *Cain shows how a bittersweet state of mind is the quiet force that helps us transcend our personal and collective pain, whether from a death or breakup, addiction or illness. If we don’t acknowledge our own heartache, she says, we can end up inflicting it on others via abuse, domination, or neglect. But if we realize that all humans know—or will know—loss and suffering, we can turn toward one another.*

Consent Agenda

The “Consent Agenda” was accepted unanimously.

Retreat Followup, Denise Klein

Debbie facilitated a robust brainstorming on the topic of how to attract and recruit younger people (age 60-65 or below) to join our village. Denise has compiled her notes and integrated them with those Debbie took (**Attachment A**). She’ll go through them in the future and bring back a summary of the most promising ideas or those that seem most feasible to implement.

Status Report on Life Plan Program, Bob Anderson

Bob reported that a couples Life Plan class will begin on October 10 and run for 4 every-other-week sessions. Pat Hughes is the facilitator. A second singles class will occur sometime after that. It has been more difficult to schedule an every-other-week class, especially given summer schedules, but that timing seems desirable in order to allow time for the information to gell for participants.

The question arose as to whether we could run several classes simultaneously. A recommendation about that will be part of the evaluation of the second program. There was also discussion as to whether we needed to have a paid, professional facilitator. There are pros and cons but the evaluation of the singles program suggested that was a good idea.

Status Report on Succession Planning Task Force, Bob Anderson

Bob summarized the agenda and decisions from the Task Force’s second meeting, held last Friday, June 9. The Task Force reviewed a revised ED position description, a study of how the ED’s time is spent, and an outline of how the ED’s most critical tasks could be assigned to capable/willing WH members (whom Denise is now contacting) in the event she became incapacitated.

The Task Force also discussed staffing models and reviewed a position description for a Member Programs and Services position Denise is recommending. The Task Force approved the position in concept.

The Board of Directors unanimously adopted a statement in support of the position, noting that, among other advantages, having two staff would reduce our vulnerability should something happen to Denise. Denise will include the position in the budget she presents to the Board in the fall. Funding for the position would come from general funds or from the Planned Giving Fund, or a combination of these. The position description is attached (**Attachment B**). More recommendations will come from the Task Force at or before the September Board meeting.

New Business

Nancy Hooyman moved, per Denise's request in her ED Report, that the Membership Committee be sunsetted. She stated that, while there may be a periodic need to convene an ad hoc working group to deal with a Membership topic, there need not be a standing committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Members of the Committee will be contacted by Debbie before Minutes of the June 12 Board meeting are published.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Attended: Susan Adler, Bob Anderson, Audrey Hansen, Nancy Hooyman, Barbara Oswald, Nancy Robb, John Rochford, Jeanne Marie Thomas

Facilitator: Debbie Ward

Staff: Denise Klein

Next Meeting: Monday, July 10, The Memory Hub

Prioritized List of Strategic Questions

1. An increasing number of our members will be facing chronic illness or disability. What do we need to think about in that connection?
2. What do we think healthy growth should look like?
3. Should we aspire to be a more intergenerational organization?
4. Should we broaden and/or deepen our community engagement and commitment to making a difference in the larger community?
5. Should we prepare our members to move beyond their self-understanding into a mode that is known as gerotranscendence (perhaps as preparation for end-of-life planning)?