**GESCA**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 14, 2019**

**Present:** Tomiko Takeuchi, Jim Card, Ron Ture, Barry Busse, Mary Ann Buck, Ryan Watkins, Hideo Kobayashi

Prior to the business meeting, the board met with Hideo and Ryan. Hideo is willing to help GESCA with communications between Gresham and Ebetsu. Hideo makes several trips to Japan a year. Ron will give Hideo contact information for Robert Higgins in the hopes they can meet when Hideo goes to Japan next month. Tomiko will set up a meeting with Hideo, Yoko Sato and Rie Nakata to discuss how they could help by serving on an advisory committee. If other board members would like to attend this meeting, please let Tomiko know.

Ryan is still interested in helping with the website, but doesn’t want to take on leadership due to a new job and continued education. He is interested in meeting with other students to practice speaking Japanese, but doesn’t want to be responsible for organizing a program. Ron will work with David Weaver regarding the website and see if there are projects that Ryan could help with.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Reports from the Garden, Student Exchange, Membership Committee and Minutes of the last meeting were emailed to all board members prior to the meeting.

1. Nominations for board:

The following slate will be put forward at the June meeting: President: Tomiko Takeuchi; Vice-President: Ron Ture; Treasurer: Barry Busse; Secretary: Mary Ann Buck; Member at Large: Jim Card. If there are other nominations from the floor, they will be included prior to the vote.

2. Plans for the June 11, Membership Meeting:

In addition to election of officers, Miyoko Fuse will give a presentation on aspects of Japanese culture. Barry has invited the Gresham-Barlow Superintendent to attend but hasn’t heard back whether she will be available. The board meeting will begin at 5:30 pm at Gresham City Hall with social time at 6:30 pm and meeting beginning at 7 pm. Tomiko will put together a reminder notice regarding the meeting and email it to Miyoko who will then send it out to the membership a week or so before the meeting.

3. Future meetings :

We will continue to have our regular meetings on Tuesdays at 2 pm but will meet on the … 3rd Tuesday of the month.

4. Budget / Treasury

      A. The Membership Committee would like to send out the yearly membership renewals by regular mail, rather than relying on emails, which would result in an increase in cost for postage and envelopes. The board agreed to these costs.

      B. Monthly report – In his treasurer’s report, instead of just a balance sheet, Barry gave a breakdown on funds coming in and out and a general overview of where we stand compared to last year. The balance in checking at this time is $17,963.55. The increase is due to a $7,500.00 grant from the city for work on the shoebox and $6,000.00 from the students going to Ebetsu to pay for their airfare. These two deposits will be backed out in the next few weeks. The Endowment Fund balance has grown to $13,853.44 due to about $300.00 in earnings since it is now invested in mutual funds. Taxes for non-profits are due May 15 and will be sent out tomorrow. These include a $50.00 filing fee to the State, but no fees to the Federal government. Tomiko asked that a thank you letter be sent yearly to Oregon First for their donations to GESCA in terms of refreshments for general meetings and office supplies for copying materials for us. Barry will prepare a budget for next year for our June meeting. At that time we can discuss whether we should have a “rainy day fund.”

      C. Audit: It would be good to have an audit done occasionally. If anyone knows of a third party who would be willing to donate their services to do an audit , let Tomiko know.

5. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Buck, Secretary