**GESCA**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 9, 2019**

**Present:** Tomiko Takeuchi, Ron Ture, Barry Busse, Mary Ann Buck, Jim Card

The GESCA Board met at M & M Restaurant on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 1:20 pm.

1. Treasurer’s Report:

Barry gave copies of the Treasurer’s report to board members at the meeting. As of the last bank statement, the total of GESCA sub-accounts is $15,574.33. In addition, the Edward Jones Endowment Balance as of October 25, 2019 is $14,644.18 with an additional check of $300 to be deposited. Jim Card noted that the Endowment is now $20,000.00 since $5,000.00 was transferred into the Endowment two weeks ago. Barry has paid $600 for GESCA’s liability insurance but this fee will be reimbursed by the city of Gresham. The Bottle Redemption account is currently $18.55. $80.00 from this account was deposited on 12/6/19 and is not reflected in the bank statement balance yet.

2. Website:

Ron has been working with Dave Weaver to update the website. He has also asked Daniel Chao, one of the students who went to Ebetsu this summer, and who is taking web design at CAL, to help work on the website as part of his studies at the high school, and Daniel has agreed to do so. He and Dave have been working together and have made some good improvements to the Gallery and added some Blogs. One of the things Dave and Daniel both mentioned was that the website hosted by GoDaddy needed to be upgraded and there would be an additional cost per year. In the meantime, Ron learned of DreamHost, which operates for free for non-profits. Barry will send a copy of the IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter to Ron which is needed by DreamHost for us to go with this host.

3. Student Exchange:

Three students from Ebetsu will be arriving on January 8. Byerly Woodward and Ron Ture interviewed and selected host families. One will stay with Tania Mostovoy who will bring her student to Gresham High School each day since Reynolds no longer has a Japanese language program. Ron will organize activities for the students during the last week in January when Gresham High School students will be taking final exams.

4. Garden:

Jim Card applied for and received a $6000.00 grant from Chase Me Again to upgrade the Resource Center with added items to the remodel. They also agreed to provide $4000.00 for signage to promote the garden.

The Greenhouse project is moving forward. Electrical installation and tables for holding plant material are complete. The doors, heater system, propane installation and irrigation are started.

Discussions with the school district are continuing and 10 students have been selected to participate in the program for post high school special needs students, which will start in January, 2020.

Work on the Ambleside project will begin again in the next month or so. Turf will be put down and the community bulletin board will be completed.

5. Officer Terms:

Both Tomiko and Barry announced that they will complete their terms of office in June. Discussion was held regarding replacements. Tomiko will send out a notice to all members of GESCA, inviting them to get involved and see if there are members who can fill these positions. In the meantime, Ron asked that all board members review the by-laws and see if the job descriptions still reflect the duties they are performing. Barry said that he and Toni would be happy to work with the person taking over as treasurer. He will put together a calendar of what needs to be done and when.

6. The membership committee will work with Jim Card to arrange a date for a Membership Appreciation event on a Saturday morning in May, possibly the day before Mother’s Day as that is when the Saturday Market resumes.

7. Miscellaneous:

Ron Ture found a small bird cage for Ebe-chun and brought it to the meeting. We will plan to have the visiting students from Ebetsu present it to Mayor Bemis when they meet with him in January.

It was learned that there is a new person serving as Consul for Japan in Portland. He will sponsor Emperor’s Birthday in February and has asked for a photograph of our Sister City to include in a tourism brochure.

The remaining GESCA meetings for the coming year will be held in February, April and June.

8. The next board meeting will be held on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 1:00 pm at M & M.

 The board meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Buck, Secretary