**GESCA**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 3, 2020**

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

The GESCA Board met at M & M Restaurant on Monday, February 3, 2020 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 $4,452.52. In addition, the Edward Jones Endowment Balance as of December 31, 2019 is $20,025.90 plus $300.00 to transfer. The Bottle Redemption account is currently $28.55.

2. Changes to GESCA:

Jim Card has set up Tsuru Island as its own 501 (C3) so the garden will no longer be part of GESCA. The board accepted his letter of resignation for his term as “Member-at-Large” for the Gresham-Ebetsu Sister City Association. The garden will still stay connected as a special interest committee. GESCA will now have as its focus the Student Exchange and Japanese cultural events. Ron Ture will continue to serve on the Endowment Committee for Tsuru Island.

Barry gave Jim Card the financial reports for monies related to the garden. Barry’s reports and Jim’s information reconciled. Jim did leave $100.00 in the GESCA account in case there were discrepancies. If there are none, the money can be used for the Student Exchange or membership. Barry gave Jim a check for an additional $100.00 which was donated to the garden in December after the funds had been transferred.

Since Jim Card was a signer on the GESCA checking account, there was a motion by Ron Ture that the two signers would now be Barry Busse and Ron Ture. The motion was seconded by Mary Ann Buck and passed.

Regarding the Endowment Fund, Tomiko will be taken off the Endowment and Teresa Hall will take Tomiko’s place. Ron Ture will remain on the Endowment. Barry Busse will take any remaining funds in the GESCA account, which are designated for the Endowment ($300) and deposit them with Dino at Edward Jones this week. Jim Card will take care of any “change of address”” paperwork with Dino in order to send future financial statements to the Gresham Japanese Garden 501 (C3), rather than to the GESCA mailbox.

Monies from bottle and can redemptions will go to GESCA. Barry & Toni will no longer be responsible for taking the bottles/cans to the redemption center. Jim mentioned that Alyson Huntting has volunteered to take the cans to cash them in and send a check to GESCA.

Ron Ture will work to make changes to the website. A message will direct those wanting information on the garden to be directed to Tsuru Garden at PO Box 673, Boring, OR 97009.

GESCA will continue to store paper products in the kitchen area of the Shoe Box. Notebooks containing paperwork/minutes/etc. of GESCA will also continue to be stored at the Shoe Box.

Tomiko and Ron will work on a letter to Mayor Bemis and a formal letter to Ebetsu, informing both cities of the changes to GESCA and Tsuru Island. Barry will set up a meeting this week with Michael Gonzales of the City of Gresham, that he, Tomiko and Ron will attend.

3. Officer Terms:

Current officers of GESCA will continue to serve until June. Ron moved to approve that Donna Yamashita Hanlon serve as Member-at-Large to complete Jim Card’s term. Tomiko Takeuchi seconded the motion. It passed.

4. Moving forward:

Ron Ture moved that we scale down the Student Exchange to two students from the current three. We would host two students from Ebetsu and would send two students to Ebetsu. Tomiko Takeuchi seconded the motion. It was approved.

Ron suggested that on the website, we update information on Cultural events to include those we have sponsored in the past, but list current Japanese cultural events available in the area, including Japanese festivals, Koto performances, etc. Ron also suggested we eliminate the “General Inquiries” link.

It was felt that going forward, GESCA would not continue to renew membership in the Chamber of Commerce or the Historical Downtown Business Association.

5. The remaining GESCA meetings for the coming year will be a Board meeting held on April 13 and the annual membership meeting on June 1 Tomiko will check with City Hall to arrange for a room for that evening.

6 The next board meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm at M & M.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Buck, Secretary