

**GESCA BOARD
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2018**

I. Call to order

Jim Card called to order the board meeting of GESCA at 2:05 p.m. on August 9, 2018 at the Tsuru Island Resource Center.

Roll Call

Board members present were: Ron Ture, , Barry Busse, Jim Card, and Mary Ann Buck. Tomiko Takeuchi was unable to attend.

II. Minutes

The minutes from the April 16, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted without corrections. Jim Card moved they be approved and Barry seconded the motion. The minutes of the June 11, 2018 were then reviewed and accepted without corrections. Jim Card moved they be approved. Ron Ture seconded the motion. All present approved the minutes.

III. Committee Reports

Copies of the President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Garden Report, Student Exchange Committee Report and Membership Report were emailed to all board members to review prior to the meeting and are on file.

IV Treasure's Report

As of August 4, 2018, the total of GESCA sub-accounts is \$5,430.93. Additionally, the Tsuru Garden Endowment Account is \$13,090.36.

An Endowment for Gresham Japanese Garden Tsuru Island guidelines was patterned after the Rotary Club and included the creation of an Investment Council. The board voted to include Jim Card, Ron Ture and Tomiko Takeuchi as members of this Council. They offer oversight on suggestions as to how the money in the Garden Endowment Fund should be invested. Dino Rocha of Edward Jones has suggested that the majority of the funds be invested in a CD which will earn more interest than the cash account where it is now invested. The Board felt that \$10,000 should be invested in a CD now. As the account grows, it is expected that we can take 3% annually from the investment to pay for operations of the garden.

The budget includes \$984.53 for the Student Exchange program. Of this, each host family will be given \$150 for expenses they incur while hosting a student from Ebetsu. (Total of \$450.00 for the three families). An additional \$150 is set aside for a Japanese luncheon for the families who will host students so they can get to know each other and cover for one another if the need arises. Also in this figure is the cost for the travel insurance for our students traveling to Ebetsu. Generally, the cost is between \$100-\$200. This year we paid \$315 for a plan, but it was felt it covered more than what we needed, so the cost should be lower next year. The monies for the Student Exchange come from donations of about \$1000.00 a year, which is the minimum we need in order to offer the exchange. It was suggested that if we can get more money for this program,

we could offer to help defray part of the cost of the transportation for the students, which is about \$2000.00. A question on the student application asks how much the family can afford for the flight. It would be nice to have a scholarship fund available for students who otherwise couldn't afford to take part in the exchange. The Mayor mentioned that he thinks he can find about \$2000 for the student exchange and the Gresham-Barlow Superintendent said she thought she could find \$2000. Reynolds High School principal also indicated that he might be able to find \$1000. In addition, there are fund-raising opportunities in the community such as teaming with Burgerville or California Pizza Kitchen.

V. New Business

GESCA requested and received a \$1250 grant from the City of Gresham to send an adult to Ebetsu to keep the relationship alive. Ron Ture suggested that Barry & Toni Busse be the individuals to go to Ebetsu since neither have been there and both have served as treasurer and Barry is on the student exchange committee. Ron, Jim and Mary Ann voted to nominate Barry & Toni. Barry abstained from the vote. Barry will talk with Toni and let us know if they would be able to make the trip.

Ron and Barry recently met with Wade Bakley, the principal of Reynolds High School to discuss the status of the exchange. They had a very productive meeting and were told the principal himself would be the contact person for the program. The new superintendent, Dr. Danna Diaz, also stopped in to meet them and assured them she is supportive of the exchange program.

Mary Ann reported that the Membership Committee has welcomed Bev Carlon to serve as head of recruitment of new members. The date for membership renewals has been changed to be July for all members, rather than a rolling basis dependent upon when one originally joined GESCA. The committee will come up with a procedure for pro-rating new members who join at other times throughout the year.

The Rotary Club will host the Chamber of Commerce meeting in Ebetsu Plaza on August 10, 2018 and there will be a ribbon cutting taking place immediately following the meeting. An additional event will be held on Saturday, September 8 from 10 am until noon for all GESCA members and for garden volunteers. Jim suggested the Membership Committee communicate with John Clark regarding a "favor" to be given to those attending which would include a magnetic bottle opener with the garden motif on it, a keychain, a wooden nickel and a small brochure about the garden. He also suggested that they work with Taylor who has a master list of all members and volunteers to invite them to the event.

In order to keep all members apprised of what is happening in GESCA, it was decided that beginning with these minutes, the minutes of all meetings would be sent to all members of GESCA.

Ron Ture felt that there was no need for the two student reps to serve on the Advisory Board to the GESCA Board but thought we should keep Tad and Jerry Hinton as our liaison to the Gresham City Council; however, it would be up to Jim Card to decide if he wants to keep the Advisory Board or disband it.

Board members were asked to review the proposed 2018-2019 budget which Barry brought to the meeting and then vote on it on-line.

VI. Dates for future meetings

Thursday, September 6 : Students who were part of this year's Exchange Program will give a presentation at the next full membership meeting beginning at 6:30 pm. Jim Card will contact City Hall to schedule a room for the meeting. The Board of GESCA will meet at 5:30 pm, prior to the full membership quarterly meeting.

Tuesday, October 9: The October meeting of the Board will take place at 2:00 pm at the M & M.

VIII. Adjournment

Jim Card adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Buck, Secretary