

**GESCA Board & General Membership
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2018**

I. Call to order

Jim Card called to order the board meeting of GESCA at 5:30 p.m. on September 6, 2018 at Gresham City Hall.

Roll Call

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

II. Minutes

The minutes from the August 9, 2018 meeting were emailed to members prior to the meeting for review. Tomiko suggested the minutes be approved on consensus. The board agreed that they would be automatically approved on consensus if there were no concerns, rather than having it be moved, voted on and approved at each meeting

III. Committee Reports

Copies of the President's Report, Garden Report, and Membership Report were emailed to all board members to review prior to the meeting. Barry brought copies of the current Treasurer's Report to the meeting.

IV. New Business

Jim Card will ask Mayor Bemis to send a note to Ebetsu expressing the city's concern for Ebetsu and Hokkaido due to the typhoon and earthquake which they just experienced on Wednesday.

Discussion was held regarding a potential newsletter for GESCA. It was decided that an email be sent to members with a questionnaire asking if they felt the need for more information and asking if they would be interested in working on the newsletter. Most of those on the board felt the monthly Garden Newsletter, a notice when a Skosh is being planned, reviving a Student Exchange Newsletter a couple times a year updating members on the exchange program and sending monthly copies of Board minutes and reports were sufficient to keep members informed.

Committees will notify Jim Card of the need for presentations at the remaining membership meetings for 2018 and 2019 in a timely fashion prior to the quarterly meetings.

Barry, with Ron's assistance when he returns from California, will follow up on the fundraising opportunities for the Student Exchange, by checking with Mayor Bemis, and the principal/superintendent of Reynolds High School and Gresham High School. Barry will update the board at the October 9 meeting.

It was decided that with the exception of October, Board Meetings and General Meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month. Board Meetings will be held at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, October 9, then at 2:00 pm on Mondays: November 5, January 7, February 4, April 8 and May 6. Tomiko will check with the M & M as a location for the October meeting. Locations for subsequent Board Meetings will be decided prior to the meetings.

Quarterly Membership Meetings will be held at 6:30 pm at Gresham City Hall on December 3, 2018, March 4, 2019 and June 3, 2019. Board meetings on those months will take place at 5:30 pm, prior to the Membership Meetings.

Tomiko will present ideas for a spring/summer 2019 Skosh at the October meeting. A yearly "Appreciation Day" will be folded into Skosh.

Jim Card has been working with Ryan on the website who will communicate with him every ten days or so. Thus far, it was found that we get hundreds of "hits" on the website, many from other countries. Ryan is interested in having a blog on the website for Japanese language students and would like to do a presentation at the high schools and Mt Hood Community College to foster interest in using the Resource Center as a location for students to get together to practice speaking Japanese with each other. Barry and Tomiko thought the appropriate avenue would be to speak with the after school Japanese Clubs. Tomiko suggested that the library might be a better location for the language practice. It was felt that Ryan should work with Ron Ture to get access to the schools.

Jim Card adjourned the board meeting at 6:30 pm.

V. Quarterly Meeting .

Jim Card called the Quarterly Membership Meeting to order at 6:40 pm and turned the meeting over to Barry Busse who introduced the three students who took part in this year's exchange program. They each gave a Power Point presentation about their experiences. Larisa Yermakov and Tania Mostovoy both attended schools in Ebetsu. Jose Canales Moreno attended a school in Sapporo. They each shared pictures of their host families, students they attended classes with and sights they saw in Japan. All had very positive experiences. They took part in School Festivals, Firework Festivals, and sightseeing in Hokkaido. Jose, who had taken two years of Japanese in high school, said he doubled his knowledge of the Japanese language in the one month he spent in Japan. He also shared that he had been given a woven bracelet to wear and was told to make a wish and when the bracelet finally fell off, his wish would be granted. His wish was to return to Japan. Larisa shared a carved wooden stamp of her name that her host father had made for her. Tania showed a picture of the traditional dress she was given by the grandmother of her host family. The students have been in touch with the friends they made and are keeping posted on how they are faring after the earthquake. If the purpose of the exchange is to create friendships across cultures, it appears the program is successful.

When asked if the information and suggestions they were given prior to going were useful, they agreed they were. Jose said he thought the idea of keeping the daily journal was especially helpful.

VI. Adjournment

The presentation ended at about 8:30 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Buck, Secretary