

GESCA Board Meeting
December 4, 2018
5:50 p.m.
Gresham City Hall

PRESENT: Jim Card, Ron Ture, Tomiko Takeuchi, Barry Busse and Mary Ann Buck

MINUTES: The Minutes from the November 6, 2018 meeting were approved by all present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barry reported that the Garden Fund has \$1,255.23; the Plaza has \$74.42 and the Student Exchange, including the city grant, has \$2,324.00. The Endowment Fund has \$13,090.00. Jim Card said that Les Schwab will make a \$2000 donation to the Endowment Fund. After it is received, he requested that \$10,000 from the fund be moved to a CD. Barry will make an appointment to see Dino at Edward Jones to proceed. Barry did find out that Edward Jones had our tax I.D.# wrong but it has been corrected.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Card has applied for a \$10,000 grant from the city of Gresham to update the Shoebox. We won't know until March whether we will get the grant or not.

Jim thanked Ron Ture for his follow-up in contacting Yoko Sato, the Japanese language instructor at Mt. Hood Community College and the Reynolds High School vice-principal regarding offering a class at MHCC for students at Reynolds who would like to continue with their study of Japanese now that the school no longer offers the program. Yoko Sato has offered to teach a class at the college at 3:30 pm on M-W-F for those students.

Jim Card attended the North American Japanese Garden Association bi-annual conference at the Hilton in Portland this past summer but was disappointed that the newly refurbished Portland Japanese Garden got all the attention. He has received three phone calls and two visits, though, from others at the Conference who would like more information about Gresham's Japanese Garden.

Jim has been communicating with the City and specifically Michael Gonzales about liability insurance for our board. This would work much like our Green and Clean grant that we got for hosting the program and for the Neighborhood Association grants that we were able to use for the plaza.

As mentioned before we will not be having the City purchase the product for us but some grant money will be available from unused monies that were going to be used for the Neighborhood Associations. Jim has provided a bid to the City and they have sent it to the city attorney office for review and an opinion about any changes and/or additions that need to be considered by ourselves...this is a no cost service to the GESCA by the City. Jim's latest communication is that we are on track to have insurance in place by January 1, 2019 and we can proceed with the proposed plan as soon as we have comments. Jim is in touch with a broker in Clackamas Town Center who can offer the policy for \$600.

Ryan sent out an email to previous students who have participated in the GESCA exchange program, asking them to view our website and give feedback. Four or five responded. It appears the information on the website is out of date. Jim will ask Ryan to contact Tomiko and

Ron regarding updating their information on the website. Tomiko will also check with Yoko Sato at Mt Hood Community College to see if there is a student who could help with the website as part of their course work and Jim may advertise in the Chamber of Commerce newsletter to request website involvement to provide support for Ryan.

Jim met with Robert Higgins while he was here with students from Ebetsu. One of the questions was how to deal with the paver's project in Ebetsu, since we will not be able to take international credit cards on the website. There are four groups working on the project, including a contact with Ebetsu's Rotary Club. They will send any donations to the paver's project to us once a month. Jim also asked that our newsletter be put on the City of Ebetsu's website using Google Translate.

Jim also had conversations regarding the anniversary events between the sister cities so we can plan better for the 45th Anniversary. It was learned that Ebetsu went over-budget since we had such a large delegation visiting Ebetsu. It was also felt that asking for the Tea Ceremony at the lumber mill in Boring took too much planning time on our part. The idea of splitting the delegation, some going to a vineyard while others went somewhere else was a good idea. Also, when planning for the 35th Anniversary, Gresham cancelled at the last minute after Ebetsu officials had made arrangements for the delegates at an Ebetsu hotel and there were hard feelings. It was decided for future trips, the delegates attending would make their own flight reservations and hotel arrangements.

NEXT MEETING:

The Board will meet on January 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at M & M. Tomiko will make the arrangements for the room.

The GESCA Board meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING:

The December general meeting of GESCA followed the Board meeting. Keiko Twiss played the koto from 6:30 - 7:00 pm and Bill Peterson provided a slideshow of photos from Tsuru Island as a backdrop. Presentations were made on Ebetsu ceramics by Ron Ture, Bill Peterson and Robert Higgins who was visiting from Ebetsu. Samples of some of the different types of ceramics were on display along with pieces that Gresham's delegates to Ebetsu made during the anniversary trip. Over 30 people attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Buck, Secretary