

LIVINGSTON TREE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING September 23, 2021, SACAGAWEA GAZEBO

MINUTES

Attendance: Marshall Swearingen, Lisa Harreld, Tom Shands, Dan Busch

Approval of Minutes: No minutes available to approve.

Old Business:

- Update on emerald ash borer plan recommendation and planting guidelines – The Livingston Tree Board put in a great deal of effort creating the Emerald Ash Borer plan recommendation and the recommended planting guidelines. Tom Shands and Marshall Swearingen put in generous amounts of time developing the plans. The plans have been approved by the Tree Board and the Tree Board has requested the commission review and approve the recommendations. It is not clear whether the commission has been provided with the documents for their approval. The planting guide provides detailed information for residents to use. It's a benefit for the community. The Tree Board created the guidelines based on research and collaboration with state and local specialists. The guidelines would be of use to the community if they were accessible on the city web site.
- Strategic plan updated draft – the Board will continue to make amendments and discuss next month.
- **New Business:**
- City's board communication guidance – the Tree Board will continue to get feedback from residents and other board members regarding the city edict. The board will continue to research how other Montana communities provide guidelines to boards. Regarding the strategic plan we will continue to focus on the 3 main goals. One of the benefits of a good strategic plan is that it can be used as the basis for future grant opportunities. This lead to further discussion about the effectiveness of a local government board versus private efforts for the betterment of the community including having an active effort at renewing the urban forest. The purpose of local government is build a larger effort than is possible individually to benefit the whole community.
- Budget and project priorities for coming budget cycle – Discussion will continue next month.
- Tree City USA renewal – The group thanked Marshall for all his work in this effort.
- Vice Chair position – no decisions made

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm. Next meeting October 21, 2021 at noon at the Sacagawea Gazebo or zoom