

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2025

1. Call to Order: Chair Helen Weingart called the meeting to order at 2:02. Present were Dave Stone and Leslie Ricklin.
2. Approval of minutes of Special Meeting of June 10, 2025. L. Ricklin moved and D. Stone seconded to approve the minutes. So moved.
3. Audience for Citizens: none.
4. Additions to the Agenda: discussion of Chaplin Day, Sept. 13, 2025. Add to # 7e below.
5. Budget update: No expenses since the last meeting. General fund balance: \$2000.00; Restricted fund balance: \$5,553.88
6. Tree Health update: Dave will update the spreadsheet this week. He added the Redbud to the other trees (Tupelo, Holly, White Oak) that must be replaced. He said it depends on what is available at Pride's Corner; we may have to wait till fall. Volunteers are needed to help with the replanting.
7. Continuing Business:
 - a. Draft a plan to address the new section of the Arboretum (Pollinator Pathway space). Helen has contacted UCONN and Jane Seymour for information. Dave will do 2 soil surveys of this space this week and send them out.

Leslie moved, Dave seconded to consult a professional who is an expert in native plants and trees to help us develop a plan. So moved. Helen volunteered to find someone.

Some criteria for developing a plan for the plants and trees are that they: must be aesthetic as well as functional; biodiverse and sustainable; native; be easy to maintain (have an irrigation system?); and be pleasant to walk about.

Leslie will draft a statement to be made public about what the Commission plans to do with this space.
 - b. Status of tree markers: Dave will pick these up; they have been paid for already.
 - c. Status of Theriaque and Smith plaques/trees. The Theriaque plaque has been set, and the bench is almost complete. Once it is, Leslie will contact Mrs. Theriaque and Dave will contact the chair of the Recreation Commission for a dedication at that Park. Helen hasn't met with Steve Smith.
 - d. Status of the Arboretum sign: Helen reported that the sign may be ready by the end of this week.
 - e. Chaplin Day: Helen will fill out the form for space; she and Leslie will plan the event.
8. New Business:

- a. Discuss options for recruiting volunteers, esp. for the Pollinator space. Deb Field, Sharyn Rusch, and Therese Smith are 3 people who have expressed or might be likely candidates. Helen will reach out to them.
- 9. Correspondence: Ann Lewis' email to Dave and cc'd to the Commission regarding green space was discussed.
- 10. Agenda items for next meeting: Pollinator space to be discussed at a meeting to be scheduled in August.
- 11. Adjourn: Leslie moved, Dave seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:15. So moved.