



ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
APPROVED December 9, 2019

The Animal Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, October 14, 2019, at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second St., Boards and Commissions Room 1101, Austin.

Chair David Lundstedt called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance: David Lundstedt, Lisa Mitchell, Palmer Neuhaus, Craig Nazor, Edward Flores, Isabel Mier, Andrea Schwartz, Monica Frenden, Nancy Nemer, and Ryan Clinton.

Commission Members Absent: Katie Jarl; District 4 Vacant

Staff in Attendance: Don Bland, Jason Garza, and Belinda Hare

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first 10 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- Julie Marquis – Shelter Neuter Return (SNR)
- Shelly Leibham – Shelter Neuter Return (SNR)
- Liz Carrasco – Dog Walking
- Pat Valls-Trelles – Loose Dogs

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Clinton moved to approve the September 9, 2019, minutes; Commissioner Nazor seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted to approve, 11 to 0, including Commissioners Lundstedt, Mitchell, Neuhaus, Nazor, Flores, Mier, Schwartz, Frenden, Nemer and Clinton. Commissioner Jarl was absent. District 4 is Vacant.

2. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Chief Animal Services Officer Report
 - o September 2019 Animal Services Report
 - o September 2019 Austin Animal Center Report

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update, Discussion and Possible Action on the Wildlife Funding Workgroup
No action.
- b. Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Community Solutions to Reduce Shelter Intake.
No action. Citizen speakers included the following:
 - Emily Leighton
 - Betty Leach
 - Shawna Simpson
- c. Update, Discussion and Possible Action on the Increase in Cats Euthanized or That Died in Care.
No action.
- d. Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Potential Violations of City Code of Ordinance, §3-1-25, Disposition of an Impounded Animal.
No action.

Commissioner Mier proposed moving New Business Item 5b, regarding Code revisions, next on the agenda; Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 11 to 0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- b. Update, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Recommendations to an Ordinance Amending City Code Title 3 and City Code Section 2-1-102 relating to: (a) impounded animal regulations - adding definitions, requiring core immunizations, mandating sterilization, addressing fee waivers, requiring notice to rescue organizations and revising reporting requirements; and (b) expanding advisory scope of the Animal Advisory Commission, respectively.
Citizen speakers included the following:
Andy Loomis
Susan Reda
Desiree Roberts
Susan Bellonzi
Shelly Liebham
Sandra Muller
Leslie Padilla
Liz Carrasco
Brian Rodgers
Ellen Jefferson
Pat Valls-Trelles

Commissioner Schwartz moved and Commissioner Mier seconded that the word, “must” be changed to the word, “shall,” in line 107, Part 5, Subsection (B) of City Code Section 3-1-25 (*Disposition of Impounded Animals*). Commissioners Schwartz and Mier voted for the revisions; Commissioners Lundstedt, Mitchell, Neuhaus, Nazor, Flores, Frenden, Dr. Brandes, Nemer, and Clinton voted against. The motion failed 9 to 2. Commissioner Jarl was absent.

Commissioner Clinton proposed and Commission Neuhaus seconded to strike line 93, Part 4, City Code Section 3-1-23 (Fee Waivers), and add the word, “or,” to line 92. Commissioner Lundstedt voted for the change; Commissioners Mitchell, Neuhaus, Nazor, Flores, Mier, Schwartz, Frenden, Nemer and Clinton voted against. The motion failed, 10 to 1. Commission Jarl was absent.

Commissioner Clinton proposed and Commissioner Nazor seconded to change lines 149 and 150, Section 3-1-26 (D) to “This section also applies prior to the spay of an animal exhibiting visible signs of pregnancy, unless medically necessary.” All commissioners present voted for the proposal, 11 to 0. Commissioner Jarl was absent.

Commissioner Clinton proposed and Commissioner Nemer seconded to add number 15 to Section 3-1-27 (*Reporting by Animal Shelter*), “The number of cats released under the shelter’s shelter-neuter-release program, reported by age group: under three months, three to six months, and older than six months.” All commissioners present voted for the addition, 11 to 0. Commissioner Jarl was absent.

Commissioner Clinton proposed and Commissioner Nazor seconded to add number 16 to Section 3-1-27 (*Reporting by Animal Shelter*), “The number of intact animals adopted or returned to owner, and an explanation for each.” Commissioner Schwartz abstained from voting; the remaining 10 Commissioners Lundstedt, Mitchell, Neuhaus, Nazor, Mier, Flores, Frenden, Dr. Brandes, Nemer, and Clinton voted for the motion, which passed, with one abstaining. Commissioner Jarl was absent.

Commissioner Mier moved and Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion that all the requirements and recommendations apply to all area shelters. Commissioner Mier voted for the proposal; all other Commissioners Lundstedt, Mitchell, Neuhaus, Nazor, Flores, Frenden, Dr. Brandes, Nemer, and Clinton voted against the motion, which failed, 10 to 1. Commissioner Jarl was absent.

Commissioner Clinton proposed and Commissioner Nazor seconded the motion that all the amendments be approved by the Animal Advisory Commission as noted. The motion passed, 9 to 2, with Commissioners Mier and Schwartz voting against. Commissioners Lundstedt, Mitchell, Neuhaus, Nazor, Flores, Frenden, Dr. Brandes, Nemer, and Clinton voted for the motion. Commissioner Jarl was absent.

- a. Update, Discussion and Possible Action on the Austin Animal Advisory Commission's 2020 Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Nazor moved and Commissioner Neuhaus seconded that the meeting schedule be approved as presented. All Commissioners present voted unanimously to approve the meeting schedule, 11 to 0. Commissioner Jarl was absent.

2. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Clinton moved and Commissioner Nemer seconded that the December 9 meeting include, under New Business, an Update, Discussion and Possible Action on the Austin Animal Center's Shelter-Neuter-Release (SNR) program.

Commissioner Clinton proposed asking Dr. Stephanie Beardsley, CEO Central Texas Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital, to attend and/or present at the December 9 commission meeting.

Commissioner Lundstedt moved to include, under New Business, Update, Discussion and Possible Action on new meeting requirements/changes per the Texas Open Meeting Act (TOMA).

Commissioners agreed to carry over agenda items a, b, c, and d from Old Business.

3. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chair Lundstedt adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. without objection.