



**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
APRIL 12, 2021**

**REGULAR MEETING
APPROVED MAY 10, 2021**

The Animal Advisory Commission convened, via video conferencing, in a Regular Meeting, Monday, April 12, 2021, 6 p.m.

Commission Vice Chair Lisa Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and asked for a verbal roll call. New appointees, Lotta Smagula, for Council City Member, District 1, Natasha Harper-Madison, and Yolanda Rodriguez Pacheco for Council Member, District 2, Vanessa Fuentes, introduced themselves and were welcomed to their first meeting.

Commission Members in Attendance: Lisa Mitchell, Craig Nazor, Katie Jarl, Palmer Neuhaus, Edward Flores, Dr. Jon Brandes, Monica Frenden, JoAnne Norton, Ryan Clinton, Nancy Nemer, Lotta Smagula and Yolanda Rodriguez Pacheco. District 6 position is vacant.

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Don Bland, Jason Garza, Mark Sloat, Belinda Hare

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

The following speakers were allowed a three-minute allotment to express their views on agenda items.

- Garret Nick, 3b
- Pat Valls-Trellis, general
- Katelyn Tanis, PASS
- Kristen Hassen, PASS
- Gael Lonergan, general
- Nicole Clark, general

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Nemer moved to approve the minutes from the Animal Advisory Commission meeting, March 8, 2021. Commissioner Nazor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 12 to 0, with Commissioners Mitchell, Nazor, Jarl, Neuhaus, Flores, Dr. Brandes, Frenden, Norton, Clinton, Nemer, Smagula and Rodriguez Pacheco voting approval. District 6 position is vacant.

2. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Austin Animal Center and Animal Services Reports
- b. COVID Update
- c. Snowstorm After Action
- d. Austin Pets Alive! Quarterly Report

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Comparative Evaluation of Monthly Release Rates
No action.
- b. Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Off Leash Dogs
Commissioner Norton provided an update. Commissioner Clinton moved that the Animal Advisory Commission approve the group working with the Parks and Recreation Department's (PARC) Board group on the issue of off-leash dogs. Commissioner Nazor seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 12 to 0, with all commissioners voting in favor: Commissioners Mitchell, Nazor, Jarl, Neuhaus, Flores, Dr. Brandes, Frenden, Norton, Clinton, Nemer, Smagula and Rodriguez Pacheco voting approval. District 6 position is vacant.
- c. Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Work Group for How to Increase Microchipping in the City of Austin
Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer, provided an update. No action.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Election of Officers
Chair: Commissioner Nemer nominated Craig Nazor for Chair; Commissioner Dr. Jon Brandes nominated Ryan Clinton for Chair. The vote was 7 to 3 for Commissioner Nazor with Commissioners Nazor, Flores, Nemer, Norton, Jarl, Smagula, Rodriguez Pacheco voting for him. Commissioners Dr. Brandes, Neuhaus and Frenden voted for Commissioner Clinton. Commissioners Mitchell and Clinton abstained.
Vice Chair: Commissioner Norton nominated herself with a second from Commissioner Nazor; Commissioner Jarl nominated Commissioner Clinton who was approved on a vote of 7 to 5. Commissioners Norton, Nazor, Flores, Smagula and Rodriguez Pacheco voted for Commissioner Norton; Commissioners Clinton, Dr. Brandes, Neuhaus, Jarl, Nemer, Frenden and Mitchell voted for Commissioner Clinton.

Parliamentarian: Commissioner Nator nominated Commissioner Nemer to continue as Parliamentarian, and the vote was unanimous, 12 to 0, for Commissioner Nemer to serve as Parliamentarian. Commissioners Mitchell, Nator, Jarl, Neuhaus, Flores, Dr. Brandes, Frenden, Norton, Clinton, Nemer, Smagula and Rodriguez Pacheco voted approval. District 6 position is vacant.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioners agreed to move forward all agenda items (3a, 3b and 3c) under Old Business and to add Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Monthly Reporting of Data under New Business for the May 10, 2021, meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting, without objection, at 7:34 p.m.