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4 **BYLAWS OF THE**  
5 **Animal Advisory Commission**  
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8 **ARTICLE 1. NAME.**  
9

10 The name of the board is Animal Advisory Commission.  
11

12 **ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**  
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14 The purpose and duties of the board are as follows:  
15

- 16 1) advise the City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court on compliance with  
17 Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 823 (*Animal Shelters*);  
18  
19 2) advise the city council on animal welfare policies and on budget priorities identified by the  
20 Commission and the community, except on issues related to the administration of the Animal  
21 Services Department;  
22  
23 3) advise the Travis County Commissioners Court on animal welfare policies;  
24  
25 4) promote collaboration between the City and members of the public, institutions, and agencies  
26 interested in or conducting activities relating to animal welfare in the city;  
27  
28 5) identify proactive, creative approaches to engage and facilitate communication within the  
29 animal welfare community; and  
30  
31 6) foster and assist the development of animal welfare programs in the community.  
32 The Commission may study, advise, and report on policy recommendations it deems effective to  
33 promote animal welfare outcomes consistent with City goals and objectives as outlined by City  
34 Council and the City Manager.  
35

36 **ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP.**  
37

- 38 (A) The board is composed of thirteen members appointed by the city council. Each council member  
39 shall nominate one member, and the Travis County Commissioners Court shall nominate two  
40 members.  
41  
42 (B) A member serves at the pleasure of the city council.  
43  
44 (C) Board members serve for a term of four years beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> on the year of appointment.  
45  
46 (D) An individual board member may not act in an official capacity or speak on behalf of the board  
47 except through the action of a majority of the board in which the board identifies who is authorized

1 to speak and identifies the actions the individual board member is authorized to take or topics on  
2 which the individual board member is entitled to speak.

- 3  
4 (E) A board member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings or one-third of all regular  
5 meetings in a “rolling” twelve month timeframe automatically vacates the member’s position  
6 subject to the holdover provisions in Section 2-1-27 of the City Code. This does not apply to an  
7 absence due to illness or injury of the board member, an illness or injury of a board member’s  
8 immediate family member, active military service, or the birth or adoption of the board member’s  
9 child for 90 days after the event. The board member must notify the staff liaison of the reason for  
10 the absence not later than the date of the next regular meeting of the board. Failure to notify the  
11 liaison before the next regular meeting of the board will result in an unexcused absence.  
12  
13 (F) At each meeting, each board member shall sign an attendance sheet (or if participating virtually via  
14 videoconference, send an email as provided by City Code Section 2-1-24(D)) which indicates that  
15 the member does not have a conflict of interest with any item on that agenda, or identifies each  
16 agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest. Failure to sign the sheet results in the  
17 member being counted as absent and his/her votes are not counted.  
18  
19 (G) A member who seeks to resign from the board shall submit a written resignation to the chair of the  
20 board, the staff liaison, or the city clerk’s office. If possible, the resignation should allow for a  
21 thirty day notice so the city council can appoint a replacement.  
22

#### 23 **ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS.**

- 24  
25 (A) The officers of the board shall consist of a chair, vice-chair and a parliamentarian.  
26  
27 (B) Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the board at the first regular meeting after  
28 April 1<sup>st</sup>. In the event a current officer becomes ineligible to serve as an officer, the board may hold  
29 an emergency election as needed.  
30  
31 (C) The term of office shall be one year, beginning May 1st and ending April 30<sup>th</sup>. An officer may  
32 continue to serve until a successor is elected. A person may not serve as an officer in a designated  
33 position of a board for more than four consecutive one-year terms. A person who has served as an  
34 officer in a designated position of a board for four consecutive terms is not eligible for re-election  
35 to that designated office until the expiration of two years after the last date of the person’s service in  
36 that office. The board may override the term limit provision for an officer by an affirmative vote of  
37 two-thirds of the authorized board members.  
38  
39 (D) A member may not hold more than one office at a time.  
40

#### 41 **ARTICLE 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.**

- 42  
43  
44 (A) The chair shall preside at board meetings, appoint all committees, represent the board at ceremonial  
45 functions and approve each final meeting agenda as provided in Article 6(A).  
46  
47 (B) In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform all duties of the chair.  
48

- 1 (C) The Parliamentarian shall advise on all matters of procedures and shall assure that business  
2 conducted before the board conforms to these Rules and Regulations and Roberts Rules of Order  
3 Newly Revised.  
4

5 **ARTICLE 6. AGENDAS.**  
6

- 7 (A) Two or more board members may place an item on the agenda by oral or written request to the staff  
8 liaison at least seven business days before the meeting. After first consulting with and receiving  
9 input from the staff liaison, the chair shall approve each final meeting agenda prior to posting,  
10 except that posting language may be adjusted in order to ensure compliance with Government Code  
11 Chapter 551 (Open Meetings Act).  
12  
13 (B) The board liaison shall submit the meeting agenda through the online agenda posting system for  
14 each meeting not less than the 4<sup>th</sup> business day before the scheduled meeting date.  
15  
16 (C) Posting of the agenda must comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open  
17 Meetings Act).  
18  
19

20 **ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS.**  
21

- 22 (A) The board meetings shall comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open  
23 Meetings Act).  
24  
25 (B) Board meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.  
26  
27 (C) The board may not conduct a closed meeting without the approval of the city attorney.  
28  
29 (D) The board shall meet monthly. In November of each year, the board shall adopt a schedule of the  
30 meetings for the upcoming year, including makeup meeting dates for the holidays and cancelled  
31 meetings.  
32  
33 (E) The chair may call a special meeting, and the chair shall call a special meeting if requested by three  
34 or more members. The call shall state the purpose of the meeting. A board may not call a meeting  
35 in addition to its regular scheduled meetings as identified in its adopted meeting schedule, more  
36 often than once a quarter, unless the meeting is required to comply with a statutory deadline or a  
37 deadline established by Council.  
38  
39 (F) Seven members constitute a quorum.  
40  
41 (G) If a quorum for a meeting does not convene within one-half hour of the posted time for the meeting,  
42 then the meeting may not be held.  
43  
44 (H) To be effective, a board action must be adopted by an affirmative vote of the number of members  
45 necessary to provide a quorum.  
46  
47 (I) The chair has the same voting privilege as any other member.  
48

- 1 (J) The board shall allow members of the public to address the board on agenda items and during a  
2 period of time set aside for public communications on non-agenda items. The chair shall allow a  
3 speaker to speak for no less than two minutes per agenda item and for three minutes on a non-  
4 agenda item.  
5
- 6 (K) The staff liaison shall prepare the board minutes. The minutes of each board meeting must include  
7 the vote of each member on each item before the board and indicate whether a member is absent or  
8 failed to vote on an item.  
9
- 10 (L) The city clerk shall retain agendas, approved minutes, internal review reports and bylaws. The  
11 Austin City Clerk's Office shall retain all other board documents. The documents are public  
12 records under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 552 (Texas Public Information Act).  
13
- 14 (M) The chair shall adjourn a meeting not later than 10 p.m., unless the board votes to continue the  
15 meeting.  
16
- 17 (N) Each person and board member attending a board meeting should observe decorum pursuant to  
18 Section 2-1-48 of the City Code.  
19

## 20 21 **ARTICLE 8. COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS.**

### 22 23 **COMMITTEES**

- 24
- 25 (A) Each committee must be established by an affirmative vote of the board. A committee cannot meet  
26 until its creation is approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee. Each committee shall  
27 consist of at least three board members appointed by the chair. A staff member shall be assigned to  
28 each committee by the director of the Austin Animal Services.  
29
- 30 (B) The board chair shall appoint a board member as the committee chair, with the member's consent.  
31
- 32 (C) A majority of the total number of appointed committee members constitutes a quorum.  
33
- 34 (D) Each committee shall meet on a regularly scheduled basis at least quarterly.  
35
- 36 (E) Each committee shall make an annual report to the board at the January board meeting.  
37
- 38 (F) Committee meetings must be posted in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551  
39 (Texas Open Meetings Act).  
40
- 41 (G) At each committee meeting, a committee member shall sign in on a sheet provided (or if  
42 participating virtually via videoconference, send an email as provided by City Code Section 2-1-  
43 24(D)) and shall indicate that the member has no conflict of interest with any item on the committee  
44 meeting agenda, or identify each agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest.  
45
- 46 (H) The Animal Advisory Commission shall have the following committees: The Committee to Sustain  
47 and Advance No Kill shall serve in an advisory capacity to the full board on issues related to  
48 monitoring, maintenance and advancement of City Council's No Kill animal sheltering policy.

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2 **WORKING GROUPS**  
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- 4 (A) The board can determine the size of a working group but the number of board members serving on  
5 the working group must be less than a quorum of the board.  
6  
7 (B) A working group may designate a chair, with the member's consent, but is not required to do so.  
8  
9 (C) Quorum requirements do not apply to working groups.  
10  
11 (D) Staff support will not be provided for working groups.  
12  
13 (E) Working groups are not required to post their meetings in accordance with the Texas Government  
14 Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).  
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16  
17 **ARTICLE 9. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.**  
18

19 The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the board in all  
20 cases to which they are applicable, except when inconsistent with these bylaws or with special rules of  
21 procedure which the board or city council may adopt.  
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23 **ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.**  
24

25 A bylaw amendment is not effective unless approved by Council after review by the Council Audit and  
26 Finance Committee.  
27

28  
29 The bylaws were approved by the Animal Advisory Commission at their meeting held on November 12,  
30 2016.  
31

32 The bylaws were approved by the Austin City Council at their meeting on August 4, 2016.  
33

34 Revised bylaws were approved by the Animal Advisory Commission at their meeting on September 13,  
35 2021, and by the Council Audit and Finance Committee at their meeting on September 21, 2021.  
36

37 The bylaws were revised in accordance with Resolution 20220217-033 on May 18, 2022.  
38

39 The bylaws were revised in accordance with Ordinance 20251120-008 on January 9, 2026.  
40  
41  
42

43 Nekaybaw Watson

Staff Liaison