



**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, February 13, 2023**

**The Animal Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 301 W. Second Street, Rm 1101 in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Nazor called the Animal Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Chair Nazor, Vice Chair Clinton, Commissioners Bruce, Herrera, Nilson, Norton and Smagula attended in person. Commissioners Dulzaides, Jarl, Hassen, Nemer, Neuhaus, and Mitchell joined via videoconference.**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Kim Hulse – Austin Aquarium

Madhavi Subramaniam – Austin Aquarium

Pat Valls-Trelles – Foster dogs, AAC policies

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Animal Advisory Commission Regular Meeting on January 9, 2023.

**The minutes from the meeting of January 9, 2023, were approved on Commissioner Smagula's motion, Commissioner Herrera's second on a 13-0 vote.**

**A motion to take up Item #7 prior to other items failed on Commissioner Smagula's motion, Commissioner Herrera's second on a 5-2 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners Bruce, Herrera, Nilson, Norton, and Smagula. Those voting nay were Chair Nazor and Vice Chair Clinton. Commissioners Dulzaides, Jarl, Hassen, Nemer, Neuhaus, and Mitchell abstained.**

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

2. Overview of monthly report provided by the Animal Service Center.  
**Reports were provided in back up documents. Jason Garza, Deputy Chief Animal Services Officer and Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer presented and responded to questions.**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

3. Presentation on the Monthly Report by Austin Pets Alive!  
**Presentation by Neil Hay, Senior Director of Operations, and Stephanie Bilbro, Director of Lifesaving Operations.**
4. Discussion regarding dangerous dogs, serious dog bites, criteria for shelter intake, and information regarding giardia outbreak and prevention.
5. Discussion regarding report on current shelter intake and outcome numbers compared to previous year numbers.

**A motion to take up Item #7 prior to Item #6 failed on Commissioner Nilson motion, Commissioner Smagula's second on a 5-0 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners Bruce, Herrera, Nilson, Norton, and Smagula. Chair Nazor, Commissioners Dulzaides, Jarl, Hassen, Nemer, Neuhaus, and Mitchell abstained. Vice Chair Clinton was off the dais.**

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

6. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to Council regarding animal welfare policies or budget priorities identified by the Commission based on community input.  
**A motion to postpone the item to the March meeting failed on Commissioner Norton's motion, Commissioner Nilson's second on a 5-1 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners Bruce, Herrera, Nilson, Norton, and Smagula. Chair Nazor, Commissioners Dulzaides, Jarl, Hassen, Nemer, Neuhaus, and Mitchell abstained. Vice Chair Clinton was off the dais.**

### **WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS**

7. Report and recommendations from the Spay/Neuter Working Group.  
**Direction was given to the working group to continue to collect information.**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Nazor – Discussion and review of potential recommendations made by the spay/neuter working group**

**Hassen – Discussion on criteria for what presentations are made at Commission meetings**

**Nazor – Discussion and possible action regarding the city hiring a bat specialist**

**Chair Nazor adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm without objection.**

**The minutes were approved at the March 12, 2023, meeting on Commissioner Tucker's motion, Commissioner Dulzaides' second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Herrera was off the dais. Commissioners Bruce, Nemer, and Smagula were absent.**