



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

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

Vice Chair Clinton called the Animal Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Vice Chair Clinton, Commissioners Huddleston, Jarl, Norton, and Tucker attended in person. Commissioners Dulzaides, Hassen, Herrera, Neuhaus, and Nilson appeared via videoconference. Commissioners Bruce, Nemer, and Smagula were absent.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Madhavi Subramaniam – Austin Aquarium

Katy Fendrich-Turner – Austin Animal Center

Hanna Seabranh – Shelter handling of dogs

Pat Valls-Trelles – Foster dogs, AAC policies

Eileen McFall – Austin Animal Center concerns

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Animal Advisory Commission Regular Meeting on February 13, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting on February 13, 2023, were approved as amended below on Commissioner Tucker's motion, Commissioner Dulzaides' second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Herrera was off the dais. Commissioners Bruce, Nemer, and Smagula were absent.

An amendment to replace Commissioner Norton in the duplicate vote listing of Nilson on Item 6 was accepted without objection on Vice Chair Clinton's motion.

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.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

4. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to Council that the City of Austin hire a Bat Biologist to provide expertise on managing the various bat populations in Austin, including but not limited to the bat colony under the Congress Ave. bridge.
A motion to present the recommendation was made by Commissioner Nilson and seconded by Commissioner Norton.

Commissioner Nilson accepted a friendly amendment made by Vice Chair Clinton to edit the first line of BE IT RESOLVED to include “hire or contract with” but was later withdrawn.

A motion to suspend the rules to allow former Chair Nazor to address the Commission regarding the item was approved on Commission Norton’s motion, Commissioner Jarl’s second.

The recommendation was approved on Commissioner Nilson’s motion, Commissioner Norton’s second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioners Bruce, Nemer, and Smagula were absent.

5. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to Council regarding animal welfare in privately-owned aquariums within the City, based on community input.
A motion to form a working group to look into the Austin Aquarium was approved on Commissioner Nilson’s motion, Commissioner Jarl’s second on 9-0 vote. Commissioner Hassen abstained. Commissioners Bruce, Nemer, and Smagula were absent.

A request was made by Vice Chair Clinton to involve the Humane Society of the U.S.; Commissioner Jarl also suggested to include the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Commissioner Nilson volunteered to Chair the working group. Commissioners Jarl and Norton also volunteered to be included in the working group.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Update from the Spay/Neuter Working Group regarding the Spay/Neuter Program Policy.
A motion to suspend the rules to allow the working group to present was approved on Commission Jarl’s motion, Commissioner Norton’s second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioners Hassen, Herrera, and Nilson abstained. Commissioners Bruce, Nemer, and Smagula were absent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Norton, Huddleston – discussion and possible action regarding spay/neuter recommendation in Austin

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made on Commissioner Jarl's motion, Commissioner Tucker's second and approved without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

The minutes were approved at the May 8, 2023, meeting on Commissioner Linder's motion, Commissioner Tucker's second on a 11-0 vote.