



**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 10, 2023

The Animal Advisory Commission convened for a regular meeting on Monday, April 10 , 2023, Austin City Hall 301 W. Second St., Room 1101, Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair, Ryan Clinton, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m., conducted a roll call and confirmed a quorum of 13 commissioners. Vice Chair Clinton asked new Commissioner Ann Linder to introduce herself. Vice Chair Clinton and Commissioners Smagula, Linder, Dr. Nilson, Herrera, Tucker, Hassen, Huddleston, and Dr. Bruce attended in person. Four Commissioners, Jarl, Dulzaides, Neuhaus, and Nemer, attended via teleconferencing.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Rochelle Vickery – spay/neuter
Chelsea Kotrla – spay/neuter
Shelly Liebham – spay/neuter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approve the minutes of the Animal Advisory Commission Regular Meeting on March 13, 2023
Commissioner Dr. Nilson noted corrections were needed for agenda item 6, Working Group Recommendations. Revised March minutes will be presented again for approval at the May 8 meeting.**

STAFF BRIEFINGS

- 2. Overview of monthly reports by Animal Services Office staff
Reports were provided in back-up documents. Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer presented and responded to questions.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Presentation of Monthly Report by Austin Pets Alive!
Monthly Austin Pets Alive! report presented 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 regarding spay and neuter in Austin.
Commissioner Dr. Bruce led the discussion regarding the need for spay/neuter services. The item was tabled so that more information could be obtained.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the election of officers.
Commissioner Hassen moved; Commissioner Tucker seconded the nomination of Commissioner Ryan Clinton as chair. Commissioner Herrera moved; Commissioner Dr. Nilson seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Lotta Smagula as chair. The vote was 7 to 4 in favor of Commissioner Clinton with Commissioners Clinton, Tucker, Hassen, Neuhaus, Nemer, Jarl and Dulzaides voting in favor. Commissioners Smagula, Herrera, Bruce and Nilson voted for Commissioner Smagula. Commissioners Linder and Huddleston abstained.

Commissioner Hassen nominated Commissioner Tucker for vice chair (no second was made). Commissioner Herrera nominated Commissioner Smagula for vice chair. The vote was 7 to 5 in favor of Commissioner Tucker. Commissioners Clinton, Tucker, Hassen, Neuhaus, Nemer, Jarl and Dulzaides voted in favor. Commissioners Smagula, Herrera, Huddleston, Bruce and Nilson voted for Commissioner Smagula. Commissioner Linder abstained.

Commissioner Dr Nilson moved that the commission does not have a parliamentary. Commissioner Dr. Bruce seconded her motion. The vote failed 7 to 6, with Commissioners Clinton, Tucker, Hassen, Nemer, Neuhaus, Jarl and Dulzaides voting against. Commissioners Drs. Bruce and Nilson, Linder, Smagula, Herrera and Huddleston voted in favor.

Commissioner Tucker moved to nominate Commissioner Nemer as parliamentary (no second). The motion passed with nine Commissioners (Clinton, Tucker, Hassen, Linder, Huddleston, Neuhaus, Jarl, Nemer and Dulzaides) voting in favor.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Herrera proposed a discussion item with Austin Animal Center, Austin Pets Alive! and the Austin Human Society regarding the plan for long-stay dogs.

Commissioner Dr. Bruce proposed a discussion and possible action item to approve the recommendation that the City of Austin hire a third-party vendor for spay/neuter. Commissioner Tucker seconded the agenda item.

Commissioner Dr. Nilson proposed a discussion and possible action item regarding the Austin Aquarium Working Group's findings.

ADJOURNMENT

Commission Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:50 p.m.

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