



**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, May 8, 2023
APPROVED JUNE 12, 2023**

The Animal Advisory Commission convened for a regular meeting on Monday, May 8 , 2023, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second St., Room 1101, Austin, Texas.

Chair, Ryan Clinton, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m., conducted a roll call and confirmed a quorum of 11 commissioners. New Commissioner, Lauren Loney, appointed by the Mayor, was introduced. Chair Clinton and Commissioners Smagula, Dr. Nilson, Herrera, Tucker, Dulzaides, Dr. Bruce, Linder and Loney attended in person. Two Commissioners, Nemer and Huddleston, attended via teleconferencing. Commissioners Neuhaus and Hassen were ineligible to serve due to not completing the required training.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Rebecca Amans, dog, Gigi
Kayla Latham, Orange Dot Volunteers
Morgan Donnelly, Austin Aquarium
Joshua Reece, Austin Aquarium
Erin Mitchell, Austin Aquarium
Kristian Cantens, Austin Aquarium
Kristen Hassen, data
Rochelle Vickery, spay/neuter
Pete Reimann, Austin Aquarium
Lucy Fernandez, collaboration
Madhavi Subramaniam, Austin Aquarium

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Chair Clinton noted correction for agenda item 5, Texas Humane Society was corrected to Humane Society of the U.S. Commissioner Linder moved and Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion to approve the March 13 minutes with correction and the April 10 minutes. Both passed unanimously, 11-0, with all Commissioners present voting in favor. passed unanimously by a vote of 11 to 0, with all those present voting in favor: Chair Clinton, Commissioners Smagula, Dr. Nilson, Herrera, Tucker, Dulzaides, Dr. Bruce, Linder, Nemer, Huddleston, and Loney. Commissioners Hassen and Neuhaus were ineligible to serve/vacant.

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, and Jason Garza, Deputy Chief, presented and responded to questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Presentation of Monthly Report by Austin Pets Alive!
Monthly Austin Pets Alive! report was provided in back-up documents. Neil Hay, APA! Senior Director of Operations, presented the report and answered questions.
4. Briefing by Emancipet on Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget and operations
Commissioner Dr. Bruce reported that Emancipet wasn't able to provide a representative to speak.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court regarding unspent spay and neuter funds.
Commissioner Dr. Bruce provided an update about ongoing discussions with Emancipet regarding the spending down of funds, including adding a fifth day and possibly pulling a second mobile unit into high-impact areas, as well as adding a third-party vendor. Vendor has been identified to potentially provide services to 1,000 animals, 80 percent being dogs, in areas of highest impact during the month of August.

Dr. Bruce moved that the Animal Advisory Commission recommend to the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners that unspent spay/neuter funds for FY 22/23 not be returned to the general fund, but that they be set aside to be used FY 23/24, following an RFP process to identify a third party vendor to carry out additional spay/neuter services targeted specifically toward our population of animals most likely to be contributing to shelter intake. Commissioner Herrera seconded the motion which passed unanimously by a vote of 11 to 0, with all those present voting in favor: Chair Clinton, Commissioners Smagula, Dr. Nilson, Herrera, Tucker, Dulzaides, Dr. Bruce, Linder, Nemer, Huddleston, and Loney.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation, based on community input, to City Council regarding animal welfare in privately-owned aquariums in the City.
Commissioner Dr. Nilson requested postponing the item until next month. No objection was noted.
7. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to City Council regarding the allocation of funds for a full-time Community Cat Public Health Educator.
Commissioner Dr. Bruce moved that the Animal Advisory Commission recommend the position of Public Health Educator working with the Community Cat program at Austin Animal Center be made a full-time, permanent position. Commissioner Nilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 11 to 0, with all those present voting in favor: Chair Clinton, Commissioners Smagula, Dr. Nilson, Herrera, Tucker, Dulzaides, Dr. Bruce, Linder, Nemer, Huddleston, and Loney.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commission agreed to hold over Agenda Item 6, regarding privately-owned aquariums.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Commission Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:44 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the June 12, 2023, meeting on Commissioner Smagula's motion, Commissioner Dulzaides second on a 9-0 vote.