



**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 12, 2023  
APPROVED July 10, 2023**

**The Animal Advisory Commission convened for a regular meeting on Monday, June 12 , 2023, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second St., Room 1101, Austin, Texas.**

**Vice Chair, Larry Tucker, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., conducted a roll call and confirmed a quorum of nine commissioners. Vice Chair Tucker and Commissioners Smagula, Dr. Paige Nilson, Bea Dulzaides, Dr. Amanda Bruce, and Sarah Huddleston attended in person. Chair Ryan Clinton and Commissioners Ann Linder and Lauren Loney attended virtually. Commissioners Nancy Nemer, Luis Herrera and Kristen Hassen were absent.**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL**

- Michelle Sinnott, aquarium
- Karla Waples, aquarium
- Phil Goss, aquarium
- Leslie Padilla, commission hostility toward AAC and bylaws
- Erik Corredor, aquarium
- Gail Rothe Zilker Park Plan
- Lucy Fernandez, PASS Program
- Pat Valls-Trellis, Zilker Park Plan
- Kayla Latham, animal center concerns
- Rebecca Amans, animal center concerns
- Erin Mitchell, aquarium
- Pete Reimann, aquarium
- Kristian Cantens, aquarium
- Mark May, Zilker Park Plan
- Madhavi Subramaniam, aquarium

**Commissioner Dulzaides proposed moving Agenda Item 7 before Agenda Item 3, after Staff Briefings. Commissioner Huddleston seconded the motion which passed 8 to 1 with eight commissioners present voting in favor, including Vice Chair Tucker, and Commissioners Smagula, Nilson, Dulzaides, Dr. Bruce, Huddleston, Linder and Loney. Chair Clinton voted against.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Smagula moved to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2023, Animal Advisory Commission meeting, and Commissioner Dulzaides seconded the motion which passed unanimously with all nine commissioners voting in favor, including Chair Clinton, Vice Chair Tucker, and Commissioners Smagula, Nilson, Dulzaides, Dr. Bruce, Huddleston, Linder and Loney.**

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- 1. 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. Assistant City Manager, Stephanie Hayden-Howard presented information on a planned retreat for the commission and introduced retreat facilitator, Darrell Pierce.**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

- 7. Discussion and Possible Action to approve a recommendation, based on the findings of the Aquarium Working Group, to City Council regarding Animal Welfare in Privately-owned Aquarium within the City.  
Commissioner Linder moved to convene a second working group to examine and revise the language of the recommendation and that the item be brought back for the July meeting. Commissioner Dulzaides seconded the motion which passed unanimously with all nine commissioners voting in favor, including Chair Clinton, Vice Chair Tucker, Commissioners Smagula, Dr. Nilson, Dulzaides, Dr. Bruce, Huddleston, Linder and Loney. Commissioners Linder and Dr. Nilson volunteered to serve on the working group.**

**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.**
- 4. Presentation on Austin Animal Center Data and Reporting  
Commission Dulzaides moved that the item be postponed to the July meeting; Commissioner Smagula seconded.**
- 5. Discussion with Austin Animal Center, Austin Humane Society, and Austin Pets Alive! regarding plans for Longstay Dogs.  
Commissioner Dulzaides moved to postpone until July meeting, and Commissioner Dr. Bruce seconded the motion.**

6. Discussion regarding Amending the Commission Bylaws to Remove the Exclusion of Advising City Council on “issues related to the administration of the Animal Services Department.”

**Chair Tucker moved that the item be moved to the July meeting under Discussion and Action Items. Commissioner Smagula seconded the motion.**

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Commissioner Nilson asked that the Zilker Vision Plan be added under Discussion Items. Discussion Items 4, on Austin Animal Center Data and Reporting, and Item 5, Discussion with Austin Animal Center, Austin Humane Society, and Austin Pets Alive! regarding plans for Longstay Dogs, were postponed and moved to the July meeting.**

**In addition, under Discussion and Action Items, bring back Agenda Item 7 as findings from the second working group regarding Animal Welfare in Privately-owned Aquarium within the City and, regarding Item 6, Amending the Commission Bylaws to Remove the Exclusion of Advising City Council Regarding “issues related to the administration of the Animal Services Department.”**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Vice Chair Tucker adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:05 p.m.**

*The minutes were approved at the July 10, 2023, meeting on Commissioner Linder’s motion and Commissioner Dulzaides second on a 9-0 vote.*