



**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 10, 2023**

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

**Chair Ryan Clinton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., conducted a roll call and confirmed a quorum of nine commissioners. Chair Clinton and Commissioners Dr. Paige Nilson, Ann Linder, Kristen Hassen, Luis Herrera, and Bea Dulzaides attended in person. Commissioners Lauren Loney, Lotta Smagula and Nancy Nemer attended virtually. Commissioners Tucker, Dr. Bruce, and Huddleston were absent.**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:**

Erin Cox Mitchell, item 6, aquarium  
Julie Tzucker, item 6  
Michelle Sinnott, item 6  
Rita Cross, item 6  
Madhavi Subramaniam, item 6  
Catherine Chamblee, Austin Pets Alive!  
Casey Ford, item 6  
Pat Valls-Trellis, item 6, spay/neuter, Zilker Park Plan  
Caitlin Nagar, item 6  
Pete Reimann, item 6  
Tanya Payne, item 8, Zilker Park Vision Plan  
Gail Rothe, item 8  
Claudia Hollern, loose dogs  
Jared Copeland, no kill  
Rochelle Vickery, spay/neuter, Austin Pets Alive!

Dorothy Lopez Barnett, item 8  
Dana Hegar, item 6  
Robert Singler, item 8  
Karen Hadden, item 8  
Teri Adams, item 6

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. **Chair Clinton asked for two corrections to the June 12, 2023, minutes: he voted against moving Agenda Item 7 up, and he said Commissioner Hassen should be noted as “being excluded” from the June meeting rather than being noted as “absent.” Commissioner Linder moved to approve the corrected minutes from the June 12, 2023, Animal Advisory Commission meeting, and Commissioner Dulzaides seconded the motion which passed unanimously with all nine commissioners voting in favor, including Chair Clinton and Commissioners Smagula, Dr. Nilson, Linder, Herrera, Dulzaides, Hassen, Loney, and Nemer.**

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

2. **Overview of June 2023, 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 the Monthly Report by Austin Pet Alive!  
Report was provided in back-up documents. June 2023 Austin Pets Alive! report presented by Neil Hay, Senior Operations Director.**
4. **Presentation on Austin Animal Center Data and Reporting  
Information was provided in back-up documents. Commissioner Hassen presented the report, with assistance from Commissioner Dulzaides.**
5. **Discussion regarding long-stay dogs with Austin Animal Center, Austin Humane Society, and Austin Pets Alive!  
Commissioner Herrera asked that the agenda item be moved forward.**

**Commissioner Linder proposed moving up agenda item 8; Commissioner Herrera seconded the motion which passed unanimously with all nine commissioners voting in favor.**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

8. **Discuss and Approve a Recommendation to City Council regarding the Zilker Park Vision Plan.  
No Action**

6. Discussion and Approval of a Recommendation to Council on Limiting Public Contact with Wild Animals at For-Profit Zoos and Aquariums with the City of Austin.  
**Commissioner Linder moved to approve proposed ordinance as amended; Commissioner Herrera seconded the amendment which passed 8 to 0 with all members present voting approval, including Chair Clinton and Commissioners Smagula, Dr. Nilson, Linder, Herrera, Dulzaides, Hassen, and Nemer. Commissioner Loney was not present and did not vote.**
  
7. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Amending Animal Advisory Commission Bylaws to Remove the Exclusion of Advising City Council on Issues related to the Administration of the Animal Services Department  
**Commissioner Smagula agreed with agenda item 7 being moved forward to next meeting.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Commissioners agreed to move forward agenda item 5 under Discussion Items and agenda items 7 and 8 under Discussion and Action Items.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Clinton adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:08 p.m.**

*The minutes were approved at the August 14, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Nilson motion and Commissioner Huddleston second on a 8-0 vote.*