



**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2024**

The Animal Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on April 8, 2024, at 301 W. 2nd St in Austin, Texas.

Chair Clinton called the Animal Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Ryan Clinton, Chair, Travis County
Amanda Bruce, D10
Paige Nilson, D4
Ann Linder, D3

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

Nancy Nemer, Parliamentarian, Travis County
Beatriz Dulzaides, D2
Whitney Holt, D5
Lotta Smagula, D1

Commissioners Absent:

Larry Tucker, Vice Chair, D7
Luis Herrera, D6
Laura Hoke, Mayor's Appointee
Sarah Huddleston, D9

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Rochelle Vickery – Dogs

Pat Valls-Trelles – Posting a draft agenda two weeks before the Commission meeting & not voting on any motions on important recommendations until there has been a full discussion, including community input, for at least one meeting before the vote is taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Animal Advisory Commission Regular Meeting on February 12, 2024.

The minutes from the meeting of February 12, 2024, were approved on Commissioner Linder's motion, Commissioner Nilson's second on an 8-0 vote. Vice Chair Tucker, Commissioners Herrera, Hoke, and Huddleston were absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. Staff briefing regarding monthly reports provided by the Animal Service Center.
The presentation was made by Jason Garza, Deputy Chief Animal Services Officer and Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer.

Chair Clinton requested that staff notify Animal Advisory Commission members when additional incentives for rescue partners to transport animals are offered.

3. Staff briefing regarding FY 2023 actual expenditures, including performance measures, for each Animal Services program (i.e., Shelter Services, Field Services, Spay/Neuter).
The presentation was made by Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer.

4. Staff briefing regarding FY 2024 actual expenditures, as of the second quarter (March 31, 2024), for each Animal Services program (i.e., Shelter Services, Field Services and Spay/Neuter).
The presentation was made by Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer.

5. Staff briefing on the year-to-date progress of the spay/neuter goals for the City of Austin.
The presentation was made by Jason Garza, Deputy Chief Animal Services Officer and Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer.

Commissioner Nilson requested that staff provide data related to the need for in-house spay/neuter services.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Discussion of the License Agreement Report from Austin Pets Alive.
The presentation was made by Stephanie Bilbro, Austin Pets Alive! Director of Operations.
7. Discussion of a potential ban on foie gras at Austin restaurants.
Discussed.
8. Discussion of the Austin Animal Center "Urgent Placement List" Memorandum and Matrix.
Discussed. Chair Clinton and Commissioner Smagula requested that this item be added to the May 13, 2024, Animal Advisory Commission agenda.

9. Discussion of the implementation of Ordinance No. 20240201-002 (An ordinance amending City Code Chapter 3-1 relating to disposition of an impounded animal, notice to rescue organization, reporting by animal shelter, removing Definitions; and adopting a bite scale).
Discussed. Chair Clinton and Commissioner Holt requested that this item be added to the May 13, 2024, Animal Advisory Commission agenda.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

10. Approve recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Animal Services Budget.
This item was postponed to May 13, 2024, on Chair Clinton’s motion, Commissioner Bruce’s second without objection. Vice Chair Tucker, Commissioners Herrera, Hoke, and Huddleston were absent.
11. Conduct officer elections for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian.
Commissioner Nilson nominated Commissioner Smagula for the role of Chair, but she was not present to accept the nomination.

Parliamentarian Nemer nominated Commissioner Clinton for the role of Chair with a second from Commissioner Dulzaides.

The motion to elect Commissioner Clinton as Chair was approved on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Smagula was off the dais. Vice Chair Tucker, Commissioners Herrera, Hoke, and Huddleston were absent.

Chair Clinton nominated Commissioner Tucker for the role of Vice Chair, but he was not present to accept the nomination.

Parliamentarian Nemer nominated Commissioner Linder for the role of Vice Chair with a second from Commissioner Holt.

The motion to elect Commissioner Linder as Vice Chair was approved on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Smagula was off the dais. Vice Chair Tucker, Commissioners Herrera, Hoke, and Huddleston were absent.

Commissioner Linder nominated Commissioner Nemer for the role of Parliamentarian.

The motion to elect Commissioner Nemer as Parliamentarian was approved on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Smagula was off the dais. Vice Chair Tucker, Commissioners Herrera, Hoke, and Huddleston were absent.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

12. Update from the Spay & Neuter Contracts with the City of Austin working group on goals, performance measures and reporting obligations of the contracts.
Commissioner Bruce began providing an update that was truncated by loss of quorum.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. when the Commission no longer had a quorum present.

The minutes were approved at the May 13, 2024, meeting on Commissioner Nilson's motion, Commissioner Holt's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioners Hoke and Tucker abstained.