ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2025

The Animal Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on March 10, 2025, at 301 W. 2nd St in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Linder called the Animal Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance:
Ann Linder, Vice Chair, D3
Dr. Paige Nilson, D4
Lotta Smagula, D1

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:
Beatriz Dulzaides, D2
Laura Hoke, Mayor's Appointee
Nancy Nemer, Travis County
Whitney Holt, D5
Larry Tucker, D7

Commissioners Absent:
Ryan Clinton, Chair, Travis County
Luis Herrera, D6

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Kaitlyn Banis – Adoption policy proposal

Sandra Muller – Adoption fees

Pat Valls-Trelles – Process issues

Laura Ransan Nesmith – Recurrent issues with rules and need for clear manual

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Animal Advisory Commission Regular Meeting on February 10, 2025.
   The motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 10, 2025, was approved on Commissioner Nilson's motion, Commissioner Smagula's second, on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Hoke abstained. Chair Clinton and Commissioner Herrera were absent.

STAFF BRIEFING

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Presentation and discussion regarding the development of bond technical criteria and the recent work of the Bond Election Advisory Task Force. Presentation by Jason Garza, Deputy Officer, Animal Services Office.
   The presentation was made by Jason Garza, Deputy Officer, Animal Services Office.

4. Overview of budget requests made by Animal Services Office and the process for Fiscal Year 2026 budget development.
   The presentation was made by Jason Garza, Deputy Officer, Animal Services Office.

5. Discussion of targets for the Animal Services Strategic Plan.
   Discussed.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

6. Discussion of long distance adoption support at Austin Animal Center and formation of a working group to research, support and encourage the shelter in increasing adoptions by utilizing long distance adoption models.
   The motion to form a working group to research, support and encourage the shelter in increasing adoptions by utilizing long distance adoption models was approved on Commissioner Holt's motion, Commissioner Hoke's second, on an 8-0 vote. Chair Clinton and Commissioner Herrera were absent.

   Commissioners Hoke and Holt were added to the working group without objection.

7. Discussion of Greater Good Charities, Good Fix support and formation of a working group to find ways to improve outcomes.

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The motion to form a working group to help Greater Good Charities with marketing and potentially transport to the clinic was approved on Commissioner Holt's motion, Commissioner Smagula's second, on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Tucker was off the dais. Chair Clinton and Commissioner Herrera were absent.

Commissioners Nilson and Holt were added to the working group without objection.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

FY 26 Budget

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. was approved on Commissioner Nilson's motion, Commissioner Smagula's second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Tucker was off the dais. Chair Clinton and Commissioner Herrera were absent.

The minutes were approved at the XX, meeting on Commissioner XX's motion, Commissioner XX's second on a X-X vote.

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