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Animal Advisory Commission  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2023

CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS

Agenda ID #012623

Dallas City Hall, Council Briefing Room 6ES

WEBEX LINK:

<https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/onstage/g.php?MTID=e29b78f42c098a86bc6fba3f7289d3b7b>

CALL IN: 2488 300 6999

SHELBY BOBOSKY PRESIDING

PRESENT: [13]

Jonathan Saxer, District 1	Shelby L. Bobosky, District 9, CHAIR
Rachael Gearing, District 2	VACANT, District 10
Karen Kennedy, District 3	Elizabeth Schrupp, District 11**
VACANT, District 4	Lisa Faulkner-Dunne, District 12
Sandra K. Lühring, District 5	Joe John (Jay) Gonzales, District 13
Greg Moakes, District 6 **	Karen Sanders, District 14 **
Cassandra Laster, District 7	Sana Syed, District 15 Y
Stephanie Hanson, District 8 **	

ABSENT: [0]

\*Note: Some Members of the Animal Advisory Commission participated in this meeting by video conference.

\*\*Note: Indicates arrival time after meeting called to order/reconvened.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM with a quorum of the Animal Advisory Commission present. Chair Bobosky proceeded to advise the purpose of the commission and the body of rules allowing for public comment.

The Animal Advisory Commission provided "public speaker" opportunities for the following individuals to comment on matters that were scheduled on the agenda or to present concerns or address issues that were not matters for consideration listed on the posted meeting agenda:

Speaker Name	Affiliation	Subject
Rebecca King	Dallas 4 Paws for Change	Questions Regarding Dallas Animal Services Procedures

Chair Bobosky addressed the Public Speaker portion of the agenda as the next order of business. The speaker was advised three (3) minutes would be allotted to publicly address any agenda items publicly posted in conjunction with the Commission's order of business for the day.

## **ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**January 26, 2023**

Following the speaker remarks and the conclusion of the public speaking portion of the agenda at **10:06 AM**, Chair Bobosky moved to proceed with role call and presenting the meeting agenda, posted in accordance with Chapter 551 "OPEN MEETINGS", of the Texas Government Code, concluding at **10:08 AM**.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At **10:09 AM**, Commissioner Saxer moved to adopt the October 27, 2023 Animal Advisory Commission meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy and unanimously passed.

### **AGENDA ITEM**

#### **Director's Update: Animal Advisory Commission January 26, 2023**

Presented by Dallas Animal Services Director Melissa Webber.

Director's Presentation started at **10:09 AM** and concluded at **10:49 AM**.

### **AGENDA ITEM**

#### **POST PRESENTATION COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS**

After the Director's presentation, Chair Bobosky opened the floor for questions from Commissioners in 3-minute rounds beginning at 10:51 AM.

Commissioner Hanson spoke first, using her full three (3) minutes to discuss the dumping of dogs and spay/neuter in Southern Dallas, as well as ideas for solutions to euthanization.

Commissioner Sanders spoke next, using fifty-seven (57) seconds of her initial three (3) minute round. She requested more information on the Fix It Ticket program and wanted to find additional ways to support community spay/neuter programs.

Commissioner Moakes spoke next, using two (2) minutes and fifty-two (52) seconds of his initial three (3) minute round. He asked questions on staff vacancies and if providing cross training and shadowing for all units might help alleviate them.

Commissioner Saxer spoke next, using two (2) minutes and seventeen (17) of his initial three (3) minute round. He asked if there was a root cause to the clean break and if any one thing caused it. He also asked if there were updates on staff vacancies in Field, Shelter, and Admin and for more information around microchipping programs.

Commissioner Gearing spoke next, using one (1) minute and nine (9) seconds of her initial three (3) minute round. She discussed having visited the shelter and seeing the amount of effort that has gone in to trying to contain CIV. She also wanted more information on what DAS is doing to engage with partnership organizations and other rescue groups, and if their participation with DAS over the last year had increased or decreased, and what is the plan to increase engagement and provide education opportunities for the public.

## **ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**January 26, 2023**

Commissioner Kennedy spoke next, using forty-nine (49) seconds of her initial three (3) minute round. She asked about when spay/neuter programs, mobile or otherwise, would take place and if it would still be free for residents in certain zip codes. She also asked if there was anything that could be modified within the role of a Field Officer to aid in retention and recruitment.

Commissioner Luhning spoke next, using twenty-two (22) seconds of her initial three (3) minute round. She wanted to know how the proposed Anti-Feeding Ordinance would be enforced when there is a lot of difficulty with overall Ch. 7 enforcement already, and how will it affect cat colonies?

Commissioner Laster spoke next, using forty-one (41) seconds of her initial three (3) minute round. She wanted to know if the Southern Dallas vaccine initiative taking place in April would occur in both districts seven (7) and eight (8) and how Commissioners could help advertise the initiative through Councilmember platforms.

Commissioner Schrupp abstained from any comment during this time, retaining her full three (3) minutes allocated.

Commissioner Faulkner-Dunne spoke next, using one (1) minute of her initial three (3) minute round. She advised that she runs a rescue and interacts with DAS frequently on the rescue side of animal welfare. She advised many people in the rescue side of animal welfare view the work as rehabilitation for themselves and animals and wanted to know if DAS would ever possibly hire someone with an arrest record.

Commissioner Gonzales spoke next, using one (1) minute and twenty-nine (29) seconds of his initial three (3) minute round. He advised being able to take a tour of DAS was really beneficial as a Commissioner and a member of the public and encouraged the other Commissioners to take one if they haven't done so. He also wanted to know if it would be possible to bring in trainers for the community rather than the animals in an effort to decrease the likelihood of returns to the shelter.

Commissioner Syed spoke next, using her full three (3) minutes. She asked for a high level overview of campaign numbers and metrics, if anyone had been hired for the Marketing position, the possibility of doing pet segments with a news network in Dallas and the media training and logistics that would be needed for them, and clarifying what our campaigns are trying to accomplish to the public.

Chair Bobosky was last to speak, using one (1) minute and thirty-three (33) seconds of her initial three (3) minute round. She thanked all the individuals that are helping on the Support and Ordinance Task Forces and expressed her excitement for changes to come. She asked about the ability to bring in corporate sponsors for April, seeing if anyone from Code could come and speak at an upcoming meeting, and clarifying DAS role when it comes to animal cruelty cases and dumped dogs since that unit belongs to Dallas Police Department (DPD).

### **AGENDA ITEM**

**Animal Advisory Commission Annual Report Draft Discussion**

Presented by Commission Chair Shelby Bobosky.

## **ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**January 26, 2023**

After the initial presentation of the working draft, Chair Bobosky opened the floor for discussion with Commissioners at 11:37 AM. She went over previously mandated deadlines and asked if there were any dissenting views, that they be provided in the form of a minority report by the dissenting party so that their viewpoint could be reflected in the report.

At 11:45 AM and following no dissent, Commissioner Saxer made a motion to vote on the finalization and submission of the Annual Report to the Boards and Commissions Coordinator, seconded by Commissioner Schrupp and met with unanimous approval from the committee.

### **AGENDA ITEM**

#### **TASK FORCE UPDATES**

Following the Animal Advisory Annual Report Draft vote at 11:45 AM, Chair Bobosky briefly reviewed the Task Force updates provided in the Director's Presentation.

The task forces have a strict number of members (5 max) so as not to create a quorum, encouraging participation from Commissioners related to the following:

##### **1. Ordinance Task Force**

Purpose: A small Task Force devoted to reviewing Ch. 7 Animals City ordinance to ensure alignment with the Animal Advisory Mission and the guiding principles outlined and defined by the City of Dallas. Research and recommendations from sister cities are utilized in the shared goal of improving existing city code and defining areas of interest that might be strengthened or improved upon.

##### **2. Support Task Force**

Purpose: A small Task Force devoted to supporting and promoting Dallas Animal Services to all districts and communities within the City of Dallas. This task force's main focus is championing the animals and staff of DAS by aiding in events, activities, and marketing.

### **END OF BUSINESS**

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS/OPEN FORUM**

Following the brief review of task force updates and all matters of business for the day, Chair Bobosky opened the floor for general questions from Commissioners with their remaining time, beginning at 11:54 AM.

Commissioner Hanson spoke first, commenting on the confusion around animal cruelty cases and how constituents should report incidents to 311. She advised she would like to be a part of the education process.

Chair Bobosky spoke next, agreeing that public education is important. She mentioned that Commissioner Gearing was also supportive of clarifying what subjects the public needs education on, what the responsibility is of DAS versus DPD,

## ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2023

and general animal services questions. Chair Bobosky also advised she has been utilizing infographics addressing some of these concerns from DAS by handing them out to constituents in her district.

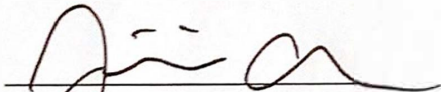
Commissioner Sanders spoke next, agreeing that the infographics are a good education tool. She advised they contain transparent statistics and current events taking place in the shelter. She advised that while it is a form of education, more can always be done and she is excited to see what else the Commission can come up with.

Commissioner Moakes spoke next, agreeing with Commissioner Hanson that looking into how different departments in the city are tasked with different responsibilities and how they do or not make the public aware of them and how it impacts DAS is worth looking into.

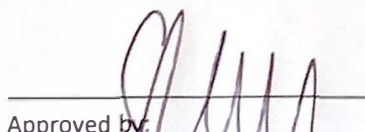
Commissioner Sanders spoke again, advising that she has enjoyed seeing volunteer highlights and was curious about the volunteers being posted about and hopes it leads to an increase in volunteer hours. She also advised she has been working with a lot of small rescue groups within the last two weeks, and that DAS has a good reputation within the rescue community for their transparency regarding shelter events.

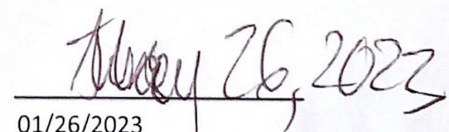
### ADJOURNMENT

After all the business of the Animal Advisory Commission had been considered, Chair Bobosky moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Saxer made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Syed and was unanimously accepted. The Animal Advisory Commission meeting was adjourned at **11:59 AM**.

  
Drafted by:  
Jillian Appelbaum, Coordinator  
City of Dallas/Dallas Animal Services

  
01/26/2023

  
Approved by:  
Shelby L. Bobosky, Chair  
Animal Advisory Commission

  
01/26/2023

### Attachments:

[Video Link](#)