

**DRAFT - MINUTES
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026**

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:05PM

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was called: Robert Blythin, Sarah Hammond, Adriana McDonald, Dr. Michael Doherty and Eric Trager were all present. Elizabeth Gooden was absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Approval of the Minutes from 8/20/2025

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Minutes from 8/20/2025

Sarah Hammond called for a motion for approval of the minutes from 8/20/25. Adriana McDonald seconded the motion for approval of the minutes from 8/20/25. Roll was called: Robert Blythin, Sarah Hammond, Adriana McDonald, Dr. Michael Doherty and Eric Trager all voted to approve the minutes from 8/20/25.

4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

This time is for citizens to address the board on issues and items of concern NOT on this agenda. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, there can be no board action nor board conversation on topics brought up during Citizens' Communication. If you have comments, please come forward, state your name and residency for the record, and you will have 5 minutes

No citizens were present

5. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A) Discussion and consideration of amendments to the definition of "restraint" as it pertains to Chapter 6 Animals of the City's Code of Ordinances.

SUBJECT:

Discussion and consideration of amendments to the definition of "restraint" as it pertains to

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance amendment. Staff's and ASAB's recommendations will then be forwarded to City Council for consideration.

Bryan V. Ruiz, Neighborhood Services Manager

Bryan Ruiz gave presentation on the definition of "restraint". Discussed adding 6 foot leash if walking in public to prevent tripping others, prevent dogs going up to other dogs, and to help prevent Animal vs. Animal and Animal vs. Human incidents.

Questions asked about leashes being attached to bikes/mobility devices, decided this would be a case-by-case basis. 6-foot rules give officers more options/tools. Senior Animal Welfare Officer Joshua Jimenez addressed concerns and stated that animals need to be under the control of their owner.

Robert Blythin asked, "Any thought on issuing a warning versus straight impoundment?". Return is an option if the animal is collared/microchipped. This is also done on a case-by-case basis and history of the animal. Bryan Ruiz asked City Attorney Nathan brown to clarify, and he stated "animal shall be impounded, and may also be impounded" stating there is officer discretion.

Sarah Hammond stated she was worried about cats being impounded due to "any loose cat can be a nuisance" suggest changing language to state "unaltered cat without identification" and questioned who would determine if a cat is a nuisance, it was determined that staff and Bryan Ruiz would make this determination. Senior Animal Welfare Officer Joshua Jimenez read the city ordinance on tethering.

Adriana McDonald called for a motion to approve. Dr. Michael Doherty seconded the motion with the updates and changes the board had discussed. Roll was called Robert Blythin, Sarah Hammond, Eric Trager, Adriana McDonald and Dr. Michael Doherty all voted to approve the motion, the motion passed.

- B) Discussion of an amendment to Chapter 6-78, of the City's Code of Ordinances regarding keeping of wild animals.

SUBJECT:

Discussion of an amendment to Chapter 6-78, of the City's Code of Ordinances regarding

keeping of wild animals.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is seeking the board's recommendation to prepare a draft ordinance for consideration of a recommendation at the next ASAB meeting.

Joshua Jimenez, Senior Animal Welfare & Rescue Officer & Jorge Moya, Animal Welfare & Rescue Officer II

Animal Welfare and Rescue Officer Jorge Moya gave Wild Animal Presentation. This would allow people to have to their exotic animals. This would change the language surrounding "dangerous, wild animals" and to match the state code.

Sarah Hammond inquired about a license to own these animals. Jorge Moya addressed the use of a registration system. Eric Trager stated that a zoological permit is not required and suggested adding crocodile, and poisonous/venomous snakes.

Definition of what a dangerous reptile was discussed. Attorney Nathan Brown said that staff would be allowed to make the final determination. Eric Trager suggested using the state definition. The use of the word crocodilian was also discussed and suggested to define what reptiles are not allowed. Nathan brown read the state statue Dr. Michael Doherty believed this was a good idea and suggested providing education for the folks wanting to purchase exotic animals.

Sarah Hammond made a motion to keep working on a draft, Eric Trager seconded the motion. Roll was called: Robert Blythin, Sarah Hammond, Eric Trager, Adriana McDonald, and Dr. Michael Doherty all voted to keeping working on this ordinance.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Eric Trager adjourned the meeting at 3:59 PM

By: _____
BOARD CHAIR

Attest:

BOARD LIAISON

