

Hays County Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
Date: April 24, 2025
Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center

Call to Order:

Vice Chair Nico Costilla called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Roll call was conducted, confirming the presence of a quorum.

Members Present:

Nico Costilla, Anthony Davis, Grace Ann Fox, Robert Frizzell, Patrick Hoot Gibson, Joe Ramirez, Sally Ramirez, Robert Rizo, Sarah Simmons

Members Absent: Anita Collins, Linda Coker, Ana Juarez (THC Real Places Conference), Tim McHutchin, Lila Knight (illness), Jim Herbert

Citizen Comments:

No public comments were presented.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2025 meeting was made by Hoot Gibson and seconded by Joe Ramirez. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- Linda, Ana, and Anita are attending the THC Real Places Conference in Austin.
- Robert Rizo announced that the Bunton Bridge marker will be installed after the pipeline work is completed. Upcoming closures will occur in the future behind the HEB Plus area in Kyle, Tx. Currently he is awaiting a date from Linda for the San Vicente Cemetery marker dedication, and will inform the commission of updates.
- Mary Kyle Hartson Park has been granted the Lone Star Legacy Award. The award ceremony will take place on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the park.

Committee Reports:

- Markers Committee (Linda Coker- absent; no report was given)
- Certified Local Government Committee (Lila Knight-absent; no report was given)
- Cemetery Committee (Sally Ramirez) :
On Saturday, April 5, 2025, Mr. and Mrs. Ramirez as well as a few other volunteers helped Dr. Ana Juarez with the Stringtown Cemetery cleanup. Ongoing cleanup efforts are planned for each Saturday in May. A recommendation was made to possibly place

ribbons or markers on trees to help cleanup crews identify the path to the cemetery as well as cleanup areas.

Communication was received regarding vandalism and construction near San Marcos Blanco Cemetery and the possibility of involving law enforcement and/or installing gate cameras was discussed. Additionally, a new fence may be needed and an email was sent to Linda Coker for input.

Mrs. Ramirez also reported that the Billings-Nichols Cemetery is severely overgrown. Mr. Rizo suggested contacting the “As Is Wow” group from Austin as a potential partner for future cleanups, as well as the Texas State University group “Bobcat Build” and even local high school groups.

- Depot Committee (Patrick “Hoot” Gibson):
The annual Easter celebration at the Train Depot on April 19, 2025 had 127 visitors. Kate Johnson donated a Wells Fargo express trunk used on trains for exhibit at the Depot. Updates at the Depot include the framing of stories for display. Future updates will include the restructuring of the main room to reflect the transition of the city, including expanding exhibits in the segregated room to represent all communities. Cleanup efforts at the Depot are ongoing. Hoot Gibson was appointed to the Kyle City Train Board and is working to both increase support and involve the city in helping with the preservation of the Depot and Heritage Center.
- Under-Represented Communities Committee (Nico Costilla):
Chairperson Costilla will coordinate with Linda Coker to obtain the list of committee members and will set a meeting to determine the committee’s annual focus.
- Texas Treasures Committee (Linda Coker- absent; no report was given)
- Kyle Radio Updates (Anthony Davis):
Mr. Rizo informed the commission of a podcast training last Saturday, April 19, 2025 for Kyle Radio. The Kyle City Council recently approved the installation of an antenna. The HCHC discussed future possible collaboration with the Buda Beehive, a new coworking space and start-up incubator in Buda, specifically the recording space for podcasts.
- IT Updates (Anthony Davis):
The HCHC YouTube channel has higher numbers of viewers than before, as does the website and social media pages.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Hoot Gibson and seconded by Robert Rizo. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Grace Ann Fox, M.Ed., Secretary, Hays County Historical Commission