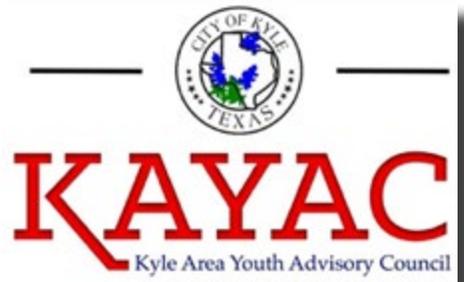


## Bringing a youth perspective to city government



## News & Views

Spring/Summer 2017



A newsletter from the Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council

### We're Looking for Leaders.

Interested in learning about your local government? Have passion for volunteer work? **KAYAC is now accepting applications for 2017-18!**

Applicants should be willing to attend meetings, participate in fundraising and volunteerism, join subcommittees and work on projects.

KAYAC meets on alternating Wednesdays, but additional meetings are scheduled in order to increase productivity and plan for future events.

Kyle residents, or those who attend a Hays CISD, home-school, or private high school are eligible to apply.

**Come join KAYAC and get connected to your city!**

**Visit the KAYAC webpage to apply.**

### Pedestrian Mobility Update

Following nine months of development, KAYAC recently presented its final draft of the City of Kyle Sidewalk Master Plan to Kyle City Council.

KAYAC has advocated for expanding Kyle's sidewalk system since the organization came to be in 2013. This report is significant in that it is KAYAC's first action towards developing a viable plan for the city.

Work began with a research period that included reading the sidewalk master plans of other cities, hosting a charrette where participants marked up maps of Kyle and discussed issues regarding sidewalks, and conducting a survey to attain mobility information from the public.

The survey captured area of residence, methods of transportation and demographics along with mobility issues and preferences.

Following this, KAYAC completed the City of Kyle Sidewalk Master Plan.

*See the plan on the city's website, [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com).*



### Girl Power

KAYAC member Meghan Murphy, a sophomore at Lehman High School, had the honor of being a guest at the Texas Capitol earlier this spring. She was accepted into the **Young Women In Leadership** program launched by Rep. Jason Issac (District



45). She spent the day visiting with Issac, touring the capitol, running errands as an honorary page and was introduced to the House of

Representatives.

**See the video of Meghan being introduced to the Texas House of Representatives — click here!**

### So long, seniors — and thanks!

Five of our KAYAC members graduating members are moving on to bigger things: Aidan O'Keeffe, Hannah Malott, Lila Ramos, Alexandra Moore and Anna Holsonbake.

**Aidan** is a four-year member and current chair of KAYAC. He led the charge on this year's Sidewalk Masterplan, participated in the construction of last year's Skate Park project. **Hannah** a three-year member, is currently the vice chair and has contributed greatly behind-the-scenes to the success of our council, leading our council's efforts in the Downtown Beautification Project, testifying before the county court, and keeping our leadership functioning. **Lila**, another four-year member, is this year's council secretary, and has been our record-keeper and liaison to the Kyle Library. She kept us all in line and on time! **Alex** is a three-year member who participated in last year's Downtown Beautification project and testified before the county court during the passing of our City's prohibition on electronic cigarettes. **Anna**, who joined in 2016, participated on this year's Sidewalk Masterplan. She also represented the Kyle Police Department for our council.

We are grateful to these KAYAC members for their contributions! Wishing them each the best of luck as they pursue new futures.

### Save the Dates!

Several City of Kyle events and activities are coming up; mark your calendars for the following happenings:

**May 19 — Movies at the Lake "Star Wars Rogue One" Begins at sunset, Lake Kyle**

**July 4 — Independence Day Celebration Plum Creek Golf Course and Hays CISD PAC at dark.**

**Sept. 1-2 — Kyle Pie in the Sky Hot Air Balloon Festival at Lake Kyle**

### Eggstra Special

KAYAC members once again volunteered for Kyle's annual Easter Eggstravaganza, helping to make it a success. We also raised funds for KAYAC.

Members Kassandra Wright and Gabriel Barrientos escorted the Easter Bunny around the event and took photos for families. The rest of our crew held down the fort selling cold drinks to event attendees.



We view every public event as an excellent way to serve our community and spread awareness about Kyle's

youth advisory council to the local community.

### YAC Summit 2017

One of the many benefits of being in KAYAC is attending the annual Youth Advisory Council (YAC) summit. This year, our Kyle crew headed to Abilene. During the weekend event, we heard from guest speaker Bennie Wylie Jr., who was a past winner on the show "Strong." He showed us where dedication and support from the community can get you, especially when you come from a small town. He reminded us that working hard and being nice to people are key factors to succeeding in life.

The other guest speaker was Kevin Tutt, who spoke to us about how we live our life based on what society wants. He used realistic scenarios to help us comprehend his lesson.

This summit allowed for getting to know other YAC members, but even more important was the opportunity to bond within KAYAC. We attended workshops on being better community leaders, had chances to mingle and play games, and we even attended a silent disco party!

These experiences and lessons will stay with us as we continue down our respective paths. The YAC summit offered a chance for us to develop better skills as future leaders and to become better humans as well.



### How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved with KAYAC:

- Become a member. Join KAYAC!
- SPEAK UP. Let us know what you think! (See contact methods below.)
- Volunteer. Get involved, e.g., Founders Parade, Santa's Arrival, Easter Eggstravaganza
- Attend a meeting. Speak during citizen's comment. KAYAC meets regularly at Kyle City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

**Contact KAYAC: Kim Hilsenbeck, [khilsenbeck@cityofkyle.com](mailto:khilsenbeck@cityofkyle.com) Visit our website. Also find us on Facebook and Twitter!**

### Contact KAYAC

**While KAYAC is a youth-led group, several staff and council members help along the way.**

**Staff Liaison:** Kim Hilsenbeck [khilsenbeck@cityofkyle.com](mailto:khilsenbeck@cityofkyle.com)

**Staff Advisor:** Howard Koontz [hkoontz@cityofkyle.com](mailto:hkoontz@cityofkyle.com)

**City Council Representative:** Shane Arabie [sarabie3@gmail.com](mailto:sarabie3@gmail.com)

**Questions? Email us!**