



2021 Annual Report of the President January 2022

“Celebrating 40 years of Service”

Below is an overview of the activities that kept your association busy and engaged in 2021.

Your ECCA Board of Directors continued to meet through-out 2021 to keep the membership up to date with information from Cobb County as well as the state. In order to help improve communications with the community we:

- Developed a new-updated logo that better describes who we are.
- Developed a new-updated website at www.eastcobb.net to make viewing easier on all forms of technology.
- Created a Membership Committee focused on increasing and maintaining membership.

Zonings, Variances and Other Business Items (OBIs):

ECCA’s Zoning Committee reviews monthly zoning and variance applications and other business items received by county staff, then selects the cases to follow-up on based on the needs of our member neighborhoods, or if the case sets a precedent that might affect our area. Many times these cases are continued to allow additional time for plans to be finalized with the neighbors. These can last for 30 additional days or, in the case of one zoning, for over 1 year. The assigned case manager stays with the case until it is finished.

In 2021, ECCA caseworkers researched, conducted site visits, met with neighbors and applicants, as well as making recommendations to the Cobb County Planning Commission and the Cobb County Board of Commissioners on a total of nine (9) applications for zoning changes and on eight (8) Other Business Items (OBIs). Caseworkers also made recommendations to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Variances on thirteen (13) variance applications.

Comprehensive Plan:

Cobb County proposes amendments to the Cobb County Comprehensive Plan (also known as the Future Land Use Plan) annually in January. In addition, the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is being updated and ECCA representatives are part of the citizens group providing updates to this plan.

- ECCA examined proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan and made recommendations aimed at helping to ensure that any changes made to the plan would not adversely affect property values in the area.

Code Amendments:

The new Cobb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) updated the code only one time in 2021.

- ECCA reviewed the code amendments and made recommendations on those of special importance to East Cobb.

Member/Community Education and Awareness:

One of ECCA’s primary missions is to help educate and inform the East Cobb community about topics concerning their county government and services, as well as other areas of interest.

The monthly General Membership Meetings of ECCA include a presentation on some issue, program, agency, organization, or trend that affects the East Cobb community in some way. As COVID restrictions prevented us from meeting in person, ECCA continued to meet virtually via Zoom. In 2021, meeting attendees heard from:

- Lisa Cupid, Chairwoman, Cobb County Board of Directors
- JoAnn Birrell, Commissioner District 3, Cobb County Board of Directors
- Rep. Sharon Cooper, Georgia State House of Representatives
- Major Batterton, Pct. 4 Commander, Cobb County Police Department.
- Stephen D. White, Director, Cobb County Tax Assessors Office
- David Banks, Board Vice Chairman, Cobb County School Board
- Jatunn Gibson, PhD, Director of Senior Services
- Seamma Abbott, Field Operations Manager, Animal Services
- ECCA, as part of a community task force appointed by the Commissioners, kept the community updated with the latest Executive orders from the Governor as well as local government involving Covid restrictions. This included everything from business guidelines to opening of subdivision pools.
- The ECCA "Email Blast", distributed at the beginning of each month to members, kept the community up to date on events as well as services available in the area. The letter can easily be forwarded to subdivision homeowners or posted on subdivision websites.

Governmental and Community Engagement:

Staying engaged with county staff and leadership, and serving in positions that influence growth, development and redevelopment of the East Cobb area ensure direct input into decisions that affect the community now and well into the future. We also encourage the community to get involved in making East Cobb a better place to live.

- Representatives of ECCA serve on:
 - County boards and Authorities appointed by Cobb County Commissioners.
 - Steering committees for design studies such as the Johnson Ferry-Shallowford Road Design Plan (also known as JOSH), and the Johnson Ferry Design Guidelines.
 - Architectural/landscape control committees that were created as a result of zoning stipulations.
- ECCA continues its participation in the Cobb County Adopt-A-Mile program. The Adopt-a-mile schedule is on the ECCA website.
- In 2021 ECCA also made a donation to Sewell Mill Library.

We hope you will see that ECCA provides a valuable opportunity to serve our community and help preserve the quality of life in East Cobb. 2021 has presented us all with many challenges. The health of our families and friends was at the forefront of everyone's minds. Socializing/meetings became virtual rather than face to face. Despite this ECCA continued to move forward and adapted to this new environment.

We look forward to seeing you virtually and hopefully in person in 2022.

Richard Grome
2021 ECCA President