



**2022 Annual Report of the President  
January 2023**

**“Celebrating over 40 years of Service”**

Still under COVID-19 protocols at the beginning of 2022, ECCA continued to meet virtually to keep the membership up to date with information from Cobb County as well as the state. Beginning in April we were able to resume in-person Board and General Membership meetings again.

**ECCA reviewed 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. We have seen some cases continue for over a year. The ECCA assigned case manager stays with the case until it is finished.

In 2022, 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 four (4) applications for zoning changes and eight (8) Other Business Items (OBIs). Caseworkers also made recommendations to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Variances on six (6) variance applications.

**ECCA reviewed and proposed changes and additions to the Comprehensive Plan:**

Every 5 years, Cobb County updates their Comprehensive Plan (2040 Comprehensive Plan) along with the Future Land Use Map. ECCA representatives were part of the citizens group providing updates to this plan as well as recommending final corrections and changes to the Board of Commissioners prior to the adoption of the plan.

**ECCA reviewed and proposed changes to Code Amendments:**

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) updated the code twice in 2022. This took an exceptional amount of ECCA’s time this year. ECCA had to push for staff to consider community input on code amendments to be heard this year. This included cleaning up contradictions in the present zoning codes, and change unspecific and/or ambiguous language in proposed new codes.

**ECCA provided 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 includes a presentation on some issue, program, agency, organization, or trend that affects the East Cobb community in some way.

In 2022, meeting attendees heard from:

- Lisa Cupid, Chairwoman, Cobb County Board of Commissioners
- Melissa Alterio, Director of Cobb County 911
- Chris Ragsdale, Superintendent, Cobb County School System
- Cathey Pickett, Manager, Cobb County Code Enforcement
- Stephen D. White, Director, Cobb County Tax Assessors Office
- Mike Lant, Senior VP, North American Properties, (new managers of The Avenue at East Cobb)
- Karyn Matthews, P.E., Project Manager, DOT District 2
- Sgt. Jason Harder, Unit Commander, Technology Based Crimes Unit, Cobb County Police Department
- Stephen Spencer, Manager, Cobb County International Airport
- 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.
- 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.
- ECCA's updated, easy to use website helps our members find useful information.

By staying engaged with county staff, county leaders, and our members, ECCA helps ensure that East Cobb's voice is heard on issues that affect the community now and well into the future. ECCA also encourages members of 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.
  - Focus Groups and Stakeholder Groups for future planning and the development of Cobb County's Unified Development Code (UDC).
  - 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 2022 ECCA was recognized by the Sewell Mill Library for ECCA's donation to the audio/visual department.

ECCA provides a valuable opportunity to serve our community and help preserve the quality of life in East Cobb. 2022 has presented us all with many challenges. Socializing/meetings eventually went from virtual back to in-person. ECCA has continued to move forward through these challenging times.

We look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Richard S. Grome  
2022 ECCA President