



“Celebrating over 40 years of Service”

2023 Annual Report of the President January 2024

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.

Below is an overview of the activities your association has engaged in during 2023.

ECCA reviewed Zonings, Variances and Other Business Items (OBIs):

ECCA’s Zoning Committee and Board 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 2023, 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 seven (7) applications for Zoning changes and nine (9) Other Business Items (OBIs). Caseworkers also made recommendations to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Variances on eleven (11) Variance applications. This represents an overall increase in case load of 50% from 2022.

ECCA reviewed and made recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan:

Every 5 years, Cobb County updates their Comprehensive Plan (2040 Comprehensive Plan). In the interim years, like 2023, only the future land use map (FLUM) is updated based on zoning decisions, Commissioner’s requests, and staff recommendations. ECCA recommended, and both staff and Commissioners have agreed with, proposed corrections to the comments attached to the areas at Johnson Ferry/Shallowford road (Z-72, 2020) and Paper Mill Village that have changed with the rezonings of those properties.

ECCA reviewed and made recommendations to Code Amendments:

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners updated the code twice in 2023. ECCA took an active role in reviewing the proposed Code changes and making recommendations. ECCA was especially involved with staff in recommending language for the code regulating EV Charging Stations.

ECCA reviewed and made recommendations to the Unified Development Code (UDC):

ECCA has two (2) of its Board Members, each appointed by a different Commissioner, in the UDC Focus Group Committee. At the (2) meetings of the Committee in 2023, ECCA gave input as to what the ECCA felt was necessary in the context and new format for the UDC. Our Board Members also attended the Public District Meetings on the UDC.

ECCA reviewed and made recommendations to the Cobb County (5 Year) Strategic Plan 2023-2028:

ECCA reviewed the proposed 5-Year Strategic Plan. Your ECCA Board felt that the 5-Year Plan left a lot to be desired. It was disappointing in how much of a “30,000 foot view” it was, with very little substance and many errors. We recommended to the BOC, both in writing and in person, that they

not accept this plan, and instead have the consultants redo the Plan with more specific recommendations and less fluff. Our request was voted down.

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 2023, meeting attendees heard from:

- Lisa Cupid, Chairwoman, Cobb County Board of Commissioners
- Jerica Richardson, Commissioner, District 2
- Sharon Cooper, District 45, Georgia House of Representatives
- Dr. Jackie R. McMorris, Cobb County Manager
- Captain Michael Steine, Cobb County Police Unit Commander, Special Operations Unit
- Martin Jackson, Investigative Supervisor & Forensic Investigator, Cobb County Medical Examiner's Office
- Stephen Hammond, Cobb County Director of Animal Services
- Jenny Jang, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, TK Elevator

ECCA continues to improve communications with its Membership and the local community:

In order to increase ECCA's recognition within the local community ECCA:

- Maintains an updated, easy to use website helping our members find useful information.
- Has increased and improved our communications by creating a Facebook page highlighting ECCA's activities.
- Has increased ECCA's out-reach to the local press for better coverage of our activities.
- Has changed both the format and content of ECCA's monthly Newsletter to better keep our Membership informed as to what ECCA is doing on a monthly basis.

ECCA encourages members of the community to get involved in making East Cobb a better place to live.

- Board Members of ECCA:
 - Were appointed by Cobb County Commissioners to serve on;
 - County Boards and Authorities,
 - Focus Groups and Stakeholder Groups for the UDC, Comprehensive Plan revisions and area design guidelines.
 - Serve on Architectural/landscape control committees as part of zoning stipulations.
- ECCA continues its participation with "Keep Cobb Beautiful" through the Adopt-A-Mile program. The Adopt-A-Mile schedule can be found on the ECCA website.

ECCA provides a valuable opportunity to serve our community and help preserve and improve the quality of life in East Cobb.

And, on a sad note, ECCA mourns the loss in 2023 of our friend and long-time Board Member Marvin Shams.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Richard S. Grome
2023 ECCA President