

## **EAST COBB CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

February 26, 2026

7pm

Wellstar East Cobb Health Park

3747 Roswell Road

Marietta, GA 30062

### **Membership Meeting Minutes**

Ric Grome brought the meeting to order at 7pm. He asked Roger Phelps to introduce our speaker Dan Ferrell, the newly appointed Cobb County Chief of Police. The Chief joined the force in 1996 his first assignment was Precinct 3. He has served in many areas and roles, half his time was in uniformed patrol, 13yrs in S.W.A.T. as well time as a training officer. His father and brother were also in law enforcement. Some highlights of Chief Ferrell's presentation are below:

- Addressing violent crime is a top priority for him.
- Cobb is the safest county in metro Atlanta
- In the last 5yrs the crime rate has gone down by 37%
- Number one crime right now is cyberfraud
- Key statistics
  - 693 officers
  - 40 openings
  - 6 precincts
  - 700K+ residents in Cobb county
  - Department services 450K+ in unincorporated Cobb county but has jurisdiction countywide
- Realtime crime center is one of the most recognized in the country
  - Five and a half years ago visited NYC, Charlotte, Chattanooga, FL to view their capabilities
  - Met with Fusus (a company started by Georgia Tech) and Cobb county was their first client
  - Every Thursday organizations tour the facility
  - In 2024 recognized as the realtime crime center of the year
- Awarded a \$10.6M federal grant for protection during FIFA, enabling drone detection and control
- Technology has done a lot to advance policing but it can also be abused, Cobb has strong controls in place
  - The county had the first five Flock cameras (there are now 60,000 across the U.S.)
  - Currently utilize software to assist clinicians with people in mental health crisis

### **Minutes – Ric Grome**

January meeting minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report & Membership – Ric Grome (on behalf of Jill Flamm)**

Invoices have not been sent out yet and will be sent in March. We ended the year with over a \$1,500 surplus. The only significant upcoming expense is the two park benches (\$1,500-2,000/bench) that will be installed at the pocket park at Lower Roswell and Woodlawn. Ric updated the members on Jill's health.

### **Program – Roger Phelps**

The speaker for our next meeting will be Ross Cavitt former Director of Communications for Cobb county.

### **Zonings, Variances, OBIs – David Rumril**

There were none impacting our area.

### **Other Business**

- Candidate Forum - A board member suggested hosting and cosponsoring with East Cobb PTA. The second week of April is being considered and we are exploring venues. Updates will be provided at the next meeting
- Legislative Actions - David shared an update on the five Bills in the House. There were three more dropped in this session including HB1035. HB1036 is stuck in committee, HB1221. Five Senate Bills three from last year. Senate Bill 406 was favorably reported out of committee today. Crossover day is coming up quickly and the session ends April 2nd. He encouraged the members to review them and contact their representatives.

Ric concluded the meeting and shared that the next general membership meeting will be on Wednesday, March 25th. There being no additional business or announcements, the meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully,  
Chris Ensley  
Secretary