

2019 Annual Report of the President
East Cobb Civic Association, Inc.
January 2020

Founded in 1982, the East Cobb Civic Association (ECCA) has strongly influenced the development and progress of this important part of the county. ECCA works to ensure the long-term viability of the area by engaging the community and providing leadership in zoning and codes-related issues, development planning and execution, transportation, community service, and a myriad of other projects, programs and efforts. Here is an overview of the activities of your association for 2019.

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. The ECCA case manager contacts the HOA representative to discuss the neighborhood's position and how to take any concerns to county officials. The case manager also presents information on the case to membership at the regular meetings. The committee then reports the ECCA's final position and recommendations on the zoning request to the appropriate county board, and may also present the recommendations in person at commission meetings.

Zoning applications are published 90 days prior to being heard first by the Planning Commission and then by the Board of Commissioners. Variances are published 60 days prior to being heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals and Variances. OBIs, which are presented only to the Board of Commissioners, are posted 30 days ahead of being heard.

- ECCA caseworkers researched, conducted site visits and made recommendations to the Cobb County Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners on a total of five applications for zoning changes, land-use permits and special land-use permits.
- ECCA caseworkers researched, visited and made recommendations to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Variances on 15 variance applications.
- ECCA caseworkers researched and made recommendations to the Board of Commissions on 11 OBIs.

This is an increase of 41% over last year's numbers.

Information on the zonings, variances and OBIs is available on our website at www.eastcobb.net under Zonings and Variances.

Comprehensive Plan and Code Amendments

Cobb County proposes amendments to the Cobb County Comprehensive Plan (also known as the Future Land Use Plan) annually in January. The county amends the County Code four times a year with the proposed amendments coming out in January, April, July and October.

- 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. For 2019, we particularly focused on the density around Olde Towne Parkway
- 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 meetings of the ECCA include a presentation on some issue, program, agency, organization or trend that affects the community in some way. The programs usually include a formal presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. In 2019, meeting attendees heard from:
 - Mike Boyce, Cobb County Commission Chairman
 - Bob Ott, District 2 Commissioner
 - Sharon Cooper, State House Representative
 - Tim Cox, Cobb County Chief of Police
 - Dr. Christopher Gullede, Chief Medical Examiner of Cobb County
 - Erica Parish, Cobb County Department of Transportation Director
 - David Bearden, Division Manager of Stormwater Management, Cobb County Water System
 - Joyette Holmes, Cobb County District Attorney
- The “ECCA E-mail Blast” is distributed at the beginning of each month to members. The newsletter is created for ECCA-member associations to pass on to their own members, and contains information on community activities, notices and other matters that may be of interest to their neighborhoods.
- The ECCA website – www.eastcobb.net – includes information on upcoming membership meetings, commissioner contacts and meetings, zoning applications being worked on by ECCA, governmental and community resources, and other matters as needed.

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 as requested 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 board and committee members work to maintain a positive working relationship with members of the Cobb County Commission and county staff. An ongoing, productive dialogue keeps issues of concern to the community in front of these decision-makers.
- ECCA participates in the Cobb County Adopt-A-Mile program, maintaining a section on Johnson Ferry Road between Little Willeo Road and East Cobb Drive. All members are invited to help one Saturday morning each quarter. The clean-up schedule is on the ECCA website.
- ECCA participates in the East Cobber Parade held each September, with all members invited to join in.

We hope you’ll see that ECCA provides a valuable opportunity to serve our community and help preserve the quality of life in East Cobb. Whether or not you’ve already been an active participant in our meetings and activities in the past, we look forward to seeing you more in 2020.

Linda Carver
2019 ECCA President