Deed Doc: COVE Recorded 02/23/2024 10:40AM Camie W. Thomas Clerk Superior Court, JACKSON County, Ga. Bk 0109W Pg 0293-0361

Penalty: \$0.00 Interest: \$0.00

Participants: 0898700085

After Recording Return To: Lueder, Larkin & Hunter, LLC 5900 Windward Parkway, Suite 390 Alpharetta, Georgia 30005 Attn: Brendan R. Hunter

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF JACKSON

DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND EASEMENTS FOR OCONEE RIVER PRESERVE



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EXHIBIT "B" - ADDITIONAL PROPERTY

EXHIBIT "C" - BYLAWS

DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS

AND EASEMENTS FOR OCONEE RIVER PRESERVE

THIS DECLARATION is made on the date first set below by RB FARMS, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company (hereafter referred to as the "Declarant").

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Declarant is the owner of, or has the consent of the owner of, the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto;

WHEREAS, Declarant intends to subject the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto to the provisions of this Declaration to create a residential community and to provide for subjecting and annexing additional real property to the provisions of this Declaration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, Declarant hereby declares that the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto is subjected to the provisions of this Declaration and shall be held, sold, transferred, conveyed, used, occupied, mortgaged, and otherwise encumbered subject to the covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, assessments, and liens set forth herein, which shall run with the title to the real property subjected to this Declaration. This Declaration shall be binding upon all parties having any right, title, or interest in any part of the property subjected hereto, including their heirs, successors, successors-in-title, and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each owner of any portion of such property.

ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. <u>Additional Property</u> means the property described in Exhibit "B" attached hereto, which is incorporated herein by this reference.
- 1.2. <u>Association</u> means Oconee River Preserve Community Association, Inc., a Georgia nonprofit corporation, its successors or assigns.
- 1.3. <u>Board</u> or <u>Board of Directors</u> means the elected body responsible for the management and operation of the Association.
- 1.4. <u>Builder</u> means any Person which purchases one or more Lots for the purpose of constructing a Dwelling thereon for later sale to consumers in the ordinary course of such Person's business and is designated in writing by Declarant as a Builder. Declarant shall have the unilateral right, in its sole discretion, to revoke such designation at any time and from time to time.

- 1.5. <u>Bylaws</u> mean the Bylaws of Oconee River Preserve Community Association, Inc., attached to this Declaration as Exhibit "C" and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 1.6. <u>Common Property</u> means any and all real and personal property and easements and other interests therein, together with the facilities and improvements located thereon, now or hereafter owned by the Association for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners, or land adjacent thereto which is intended for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners, or any other land to which the Association has occupancy or use rights.
- 1.7. <u>Community</u> or <u>Oconee River Preserve</u> means all property subjected and annexed to this Declaration.
- 1.8. <u>Community-Wide Standard</u> means the standard of conduct, maintenance, or other activity generally prevailing in the Community. Such standard may be more specifically determined by the Declarant and/or the Board.
- 1.9. <u>Declarant</u> means RB Farms, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company, its successors or assigns; provided, however, any such successor or assign must be designated as the Declarant in a recorded document executed by the then current Declarant and filed in the Jackson County, Georgia land records.
- 1.10. <u>Declaration</u> means this Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions, and Easements for Oconee River Preserve.
- 1.11. <u>Dwelling</u> means the one single-family dwelling constructed or to be constructed on a Lot.
- 1.12. <u>Effective Date of this Declaration</u> means the date that this Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions, and Easements for Oconee River Preserve is recorded in the Jackson County, Georgia land records.
- 1.13. <u>Eligible Mortgage Holder</u> means a holder of a first mortgage secured by a Lot who has requested notice of certain items under Article XV of this Declaration.
- 1.14. <u>Lot</u> means a portion of the Community intended for ownership and use as a single-family dwelling site and as shown on the plats for the Community recorded in the Jackson County, Georgia land records.
- 1.15. Mortgage means any mortgage, deed to secure debt, deed of trust, or other transfer or conveyance for the purpose of securing the performance of an obligation against a Lot.
 - 1.16. Mortgagee or Mortgage Holder means the holder of any Mortgage.

- 1.17. Occupant means any Person occupying a Lot for any period of time, regardless of whether such Person is a tenant or the Owner of such property.
- 1.18. Owner means the record title holder of a Lot, whether one or more Persons, but shall not include a Mortgage Holder.
- 1.19. <u>Person</u> means any individual, corporation, firm, association, partnership, trust, or other legal entity.
- 1.20. <u>Plat</u> means that certain plat for Oconee River Preserve recorded on January 4, 2024, in Plat Book 87, Page 113 of the Jackson County, Georgia land records, as may be amended.
- 1.21. <u>Private Drive</u> means the private drive constructed or to be constructed within the 60" Access & Utility Easement depicted on the Plat. The Private Drive is located or is to be located on the Private Drive Lots.
 - 1.22. Private Drive Lots means Lots 3 through 11, inclusive, as depicted on the Plat.
- 1.23. <u>Supplemental Declaration</u> means an instrument recorded pursuant to Article III, Section 3.1 of this Declaration to annex and subject all or a portion of the Additional Property to the Declaration.

ARTICLE II. PROPERTY SUBJECT TO DECLARATION

- 2.1. <u>Location and Description</u>. The property subject to this Declaration is located in GMD 1747, Jackson County, Georgia and being more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 2.2. <u>Additional Property</u>. All or a portion of the Additional Property may be annexed and subjected to this Declaration as set forth in Article III, Section 3.1 hereof.

ARTICLE III. DECLARANT RIGHTS

In addition to any other rights of the Declarant set forth in the Declaration or Bylaws, the Declarant reserves the rights included within this Article.

3.1. <u>Annexation of Additional Property</u>. Until twenty (20) years from the recording of this Declaration, the Declarant may from time to time unilaterally subject to the provisions of this Declaration all or any portion of the real property described in Exhibit "B." Such annexation shall be accomplished by recording a Supplemental Declaration describing the property to be annexed. Such Supplemental Declaration shall not require the consent of the Lot Owners but shall require

the consent of the owner of the property to be annexed, if other than Declarant. Any such annexation shall be effective upon the filing for record of such Supplemental Declaration unless otherwise provided therein. Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed to require the Declarant to acquire, annex, or develop any of the property described in Exhibit "B."

- 3.2. Construction, Marketing and Sales. Declarant and any Builder authorized by the Declarant may maintain and carry on without fee or charge upon the Common Property or any Lot owned by the Declarant, such activities as, in the sole discretion of the Declarant, may be reasonably required, convenient, or incidental to the construction or improvement of the Lots or Common Property and the sale of the Lots, including, but not limited to, business offices, signs, model homes, construction trailers, and sales offices. In addition, if reasonably required, the Declarant and Builders may park vehicles in areas other than driveways or garages.
- 3.3. <u>Board of Directors</u>. The Declarant shall have the right to appoint and remove the directors and officers of the Association until the earlier of the following to occur: (a) sixty (60) days following the date on which one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots shown on the final recorded plat or plats for the Community have been issued a certificate of occupancy and have been conveyed to any Person not constituting the Declarant or a Builder for residential use; or (b) the voluntary surrender by Declarant of the authority to appoint and remove the Association's directors and officers pursuant to a recorded document executed by the then current Declarant and filed in the Jackson County, Georgia land records.
- 3.4. Amendments. Until sixty (60) days following the date on which one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots shown on the final recorded plat or plats for the Community have been issued a certificate of occupancy and have been conveyed to any Person not constituting the Declarant or a Builder for residential use, any amendment to the Declaration or Bylaws must be approved in writing by the Declarant prior to becoming effective; and during such time, Declarant shall have the unilateral right to amend the Declaration from time to time without the approval of the Association members.
- 3.5. Right to Notice of Claims. No Person shall retain an expert for the purpose of inspecting the design or construction of any Dwelling, structure, or improvement in the Community in connection with or in anticipation of any potential or pending claim, demand, or litigation involving such design or construction unless Declarant has been first notified in writing and given an opportunity to meet with the Owner of the property to discuss the Owner's concerns and conduct its own inspection. Declarant reserves the right for itself and others it may designate to inspect, monitor, test, redesign, and correct any structure, improvement, or condition which may exist on any portion of the Community, including the Lots and Common Property, and a perpetual easement of access though the Community for such purposes. No entry into a Dwelling shall be permitted without the expressed consent of the Owner. Any Person exercising this right shall promptly repair, at such Person's expense, any damage resulting from the exercise thereof.

- 3.6. Assignment and Termination of Declarant Rights. Any and all special rights and obligations of Declarant set forth in this Declaration or the Bylaws may be transferred or assigned in whole or in part to any other Person, provided the transfer shall not reduce an obligation or enlarge a right beyond that which Declarant has under this Declaration or the Bylaws. No such transfer or assignment shall be effective unless it is in a written instrument signed by the then Declarant and duly recorded in the Jackson County, Georgia land records. Any and all rights and obligations of Declarant set forth in this Declaration or the Bylaws may also be terminated in whole or in part by Declarant pursuant to a written instrument signed by Declarant and duly recorded in the Jackson County, Georgia land records. The rights of the Declarant set forth in the Declaration and the Bylaws shall only terminate in accordance with the provisions the Declaration or Bylaws, and shall not terminate by operation of law or otherwise.
- 3.7. Conveyance of Common Property. Declarant and its designees may convey or transfer, from time to time, to the Association improved or unimproved real property, or interest in real property, located within the properties described in Exhibit "A" or "B," personal property, and leasehold and other property interests. Such property shall be accepted by the Association "as is" and thereafter shall be maintained by the Association at its expenses for the benefit of the Owners, subject to the terms of this Declaration and any restrictions set forth in the deed or other instrument transferring such property to the Association. Declarant shall not be required to make any improvements to the property conveyed to the Association, including, without limitation, dredging or removing silt from lakes or ponds. Upon written request of Declarant, the Association shall reconvey to Declarant any portions of the Community originally conveyed by Declarant or its designee to the Association without cost, to the extent (i) conveyed by Declarant or its designee in error; (ii) needed by Declarant or its designees to make adjustments in property lines; or (iii) reasonably determined by Declarant to be needed by Declarant due to changes in the overall scheme of development for the Community.

ARTICLE IV. ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

- 4.1. <u>Membership</u>. Each Owner of any Lot, by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, shall be a member of the Association. This is not intended to include Persons who hold an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation, and the giving of a security interest shall not terminate the Owner's membership. No Owner, whether one or more Persons, shall have more than one (1) membership per Lot owned. In the event of multiple Owners of a Lot, votes and rights of use and enjoyment shall be as provided in this Declaration and in the Bylaws. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot.
- 4.2. <u>Voting</u>. Members shall be entitled to one (1) equal vote for each Lot owned. When more than one (1) Person holds an ownership interest in any Lot, the vote for such Lot shall be exercised as those Owners determine among themselves. In the absence of such advice, the Lot's vote shall be suspended if more than one (1) Person seeks to exercise it. A member's right to vote

shall automatically be suspended during any period in which a member is more than thirty (30) days delinquent on any assessment or charge, and the member shall be ineligible to vote on any matter until the member's account balance has been paid in full and such member's vote shall not be counted for any purpose.

4.3. Entity Members. In the event an Owner is a corporation, partnership, trust, or other legal entity not being a natural person or persons, then any natural person who is an officer, director, or other designated agent of such corporation, partner of such partnership, beneficiary, or other designated agent of such trust, or manager of such other legal entity shall be eligible to represent such entity in the affairs of the Association. Such person's relationship with the Association shall terminate automatically upon the termination of such person's relationship with the entity which is the Owner of the Lot. The membership rights of an Owner which is a corporation, partnership, or other legal entity shall be exercised by the individual designated from time to time by the Owner in a written instrument provided to the Secretary of the Association.

ARTICLE V. ASSOCIATION RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

- 5.1. <u>Association Rights and Restrictions</u>. The Association, acting through its Board of Directors, shall have the right and authority, in addition to and not in limitation of any other right it may have, to:
- (a) make and to enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the use of the Lots and Common Property;
- (b) enforce the Declaration, Bylaws, and rules and regulations of the Association by imposing reasonable monetary fines and suspending use and voting privileges. These powers, however, shall not limit any other legal means of enforcing such documents or provisions by either the Association or, in an appropriate case, by an aggrieved Owner;
- (c) the right of the Board of Directors to convey all or any portion of the Common Property to any Person upon the written approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the total vote of the Association membership and the Declarant; provided, however, such approval shall not be required for the Board to convey Common Property pursuant to Article III, Section 3.7 of this Declaration;
- (d) grant permits, licenses, utility easements, and other easements, under, through or over the Common Property; provided, however, the Association shall not be permitted to grant any permits, licenses, utility easements, and/or other easements of any kind to any person or entity, including, but not limited to, any private, public, or quasi-public person or entity, for the purpose, in whole or in part, of a treated sewage water discharge line or a sewer treatment plant;

- (e) control, manage, operate, maintain, replace and, in the Board's discretion, alter or improve all portions of the Community for which the Association is assigned maintenance responsibility under this Declaration;
- (f) deal with the Common Property in the event of damage or destruction as a result of casualty loss, condemnation, or eminent domain, in accordance with the provisions of this Declaration; and
- (g) represent the Owners in dealing with governmental entities on matters related to the Common Property.

ARTICLE VI. ASSESSMENTS

- 6.1. <u>Purpose of Assessment</u>. The Association shall have the power to levy assessments as provided herein. Assessments shall be used for the general purposes of promoting the recreation, health, safety, welfare, common benefit, and enjoyment of the Association and the membership, and for expenses of the Association as provided within the Declaration, and as otherwise authorized by the Board.
- 6.2. Creation of the Lien and Personal Obligation for Assessments. Except as specifically provided herein, each Owner of any Lot, by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay to the Association: (i) annual assessments and charges; (ii) special assessments pursuant to Section 6.8 of this Article; and (iii) specific assessments, including reasonable fines, pursuant to Section 6.3 of this Article. Additionally, except as specifically provided herein, each Owner of a Private Drive Lot, by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay to the Association, Private Drive Assessments pursuant to Section 6.5 of this Article.

All such assessments, together with charges, interest, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred (including post-judgment reasonable attorney fees actually incurred from any prior judgment, if any), shall be a charge on the Lot and shall be a continuing lien upon the Lot against which each assessment is made. Such amounts shall also be the personal obligation of the Person who was the Owner of such Lot at the time when the assessment fell due. Each Owner and the Owner's grantee shall be jointly and severally liable for all assessments and charges due and payable at the time of any conveyance. Assessments shall be paid in such manner and on such dates as may be fixed by the Board. The Board of Directors may, but is not obligated to, permit assessments to be paid in monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual installments. Except as specifically provided in Section 6.10 and Section 6.11 of this Article, no Owner may be exempted from liability, or otherwise withhold payment of assessments, for any reason whatsoever.

6.3. <u>Uniform Rate of Assessment and Specific Assessments</u>. Annual assessments and special assessments shall be fixed at a uniform rate for all Lots for which assessments have

commenced. Notwithstanding the above, the Board of Directors shall have the power to levy specific assessments against Lots pursuant to this Section as, in its discretion, it shall deem appropriate. Failure of the Board of Directors to exercise its authority under this Section shall not be grounds for any action against the Association or the Board of Directors and shall not constitute a waiver of the Board's right to exercise its authority under this Section in the future with respect to any expenses, including an expense for which the Board has not previously exercised its authority under this Section. The Board of Directors shall have the power to levy specific assessments as follows:

- (a) Any common expenses benefiting less than all of the Lots or significantly disproportionately benefiting all Lots may be specifically assessed equitably among all of the Lots which are benefited according to the benefit received.
- (b) Any common expenses occasioned by the conduct of less than all of those entitled to occupy all of the Lots or by the licensees or invitees of any Lot may be specifically assessed against such Lot, including, but not limited to, expenses and attorney's fees actually incurred by the Association in enforcing the Declaration, Bylaws or Association rules and regulations, regardless of whether or not an enforcement lawsuit has been filed.
- (c) Other specific assessments, including fines, against an Owner and Owner's Lot deemed reasonable by the Board.
- 6.4. Computation of Operating Budget and Assessment. Prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year, the Board of Directors shall (1) prepare a budget covering the estimated expenses of the Association for the upcoming new fiscal year and shall fix in the budget the amount of the annual assessment for the upcoming new fiscal year, and (2) deliver a copy of the budget to each Owner at least forty-five (45) days prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year. The budget shall not operate as a limitation on expenditures by the Board, but, rather, the budget is merely an estimate of expenses on which the Board may base the annual assessment. The Board may, but is not obligated to, permit the annual assessment to be paid in monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual installments. The budget and the assessment shall become effective unless disapproved by the majority of the total vote of the Association membership at a meeting of the membership held prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year and the consent of the Declarant so long as the Declarant owns any Lot. Said meeting may be the annual meeting of the members if the annual meeting is held prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year or may be at a special meeting requested in accordance with the Bylaws.

If either (1) the membership and Declarant disapprove the budget prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year as provided herein, or (2) the Board fails for any reason to either (a) prepare a budget and fix the amount of the annual assessment for the new fiscal year or (b) deliver the budget to the members, as provided herein, then the budget and annual assessment in effect for the current fiscal year shall continue for the upcoming new fiscal year. In the event the annual assessment is

insufficient to cover the actual common expenses of the Association during any fiscal year, the Board of Directors, upon ten days notice to the members, may increase the annual assessment during such fiscal year to cover the shortfall.

6.5. <u>Private Drive Assessments</u>. All costs incurred by the Association in maintaining the Private Drive shall be assessed equally against the Owners of the Private Drive Lots. Prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year, the Board of Directors shall (1) prepare a Private Drive budget covering the estimated expenses of the Association related to the maintenance of the Private Drive for the upcoming new fiscal year and shall fix in the Private Drive budget the amount of the Private Drive Assessment for the upcoming new fiscal year, and (2) deliver a copy of the Private Drive budget to each Owner of a Private Drive Lot at least forty-five (45) days prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year. The Private Drive budget shall not operate as a limitation on expenditures by the Board, but, rather, the Private Drive budget is merely an estimate of expenses on which the Board may base the Private Drive Assessment. The Board may, but is not obligated to, permit the Private Drive Assessment to be paid in monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual installments. The Private Drive budget and the Private Drive Assessment shall become effective unless disapproved by the majority of the Owners of the Private Drive Lots at a meeting of the membership held prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year and the consent of the Declarant so long as the Declarant owns any Lot. Said meeting may be the annual meeting of the members if the annual meeting is held prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year or may be at a special meeting requested in accordance with the Bylaws.

If either (1) the Owners of the Private Drive Lots and Declarant disapprove the Private Drive budget prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year as provided herein, or (2) the Board fails for any reason to either (a) prepare a Private Drive budget and fix the amount of the Private Drive Assessment for the new fiscal year or (b) deliver the Private Drive budget to the Owners of the Private Drive Lots, as provided herein, then the Private Drive budget and Private Drive Assessment in effect for the current fiscal year shall continue for the upcoming new fiscal year. In the event the Private Drive Assessment is insufficient to cover the actual common expenses of the Association related to the maintenance of the Private Drive during any fiscal year, the Board of Directors, upon ten days notice to the Owners of the Private Drive Lots, may increase the Private Drive Assessment during such fiscal year to cover the shortfall.

- 6.6. <u>Fiscal Year</u>. The fiscal year of the Association may be set by Board resolution or, in the absence thereof, shall be the calendar year.
- 6.7. Reserve Budget and Reserve Account. The Board may prepare an annual or multiyear reserve budget which shall take into account the number and nature of replaceable assets, the expected life of such assets, and the expected repair or replacement costs of the assets. The Board may establish a reserve account for such expected repair or replacement costs, and may fund the reserve account from collected assessments. The reserve budget shall not operate as a limitation

on the expenditures of funds in the reserve account, but, rather, the Board may spend funds in the reserve account as deemed reasonable by the Board.

- 6.8. Special Assessments. The Board may levy a special assessment against all Lots for which assessments have commenced to pay the costs of any improvement or repair on the Common Property, or for any other purpose as determined by the Board; provided, however, prior to becoming effective, any special assessment which would cause the total of special assessments levied in one fiscal year to exceed the amount of the annual assessment in effect in such fiscal year must be approved by the affirmative vote, written consent, or any combination of affirmative vote and written consent, of the Association members holding at least a majority of the total eligible votes of the Association and the consent of the Declarant so long as the Declarant owns any Lot. A special assessment may be required to be paid during the fiscal year, or alternatively, upon the approval of the Board of Directors, may be paid over a set number of years.
- 6.9. Capital Contribution Assessments (Initiation Fee). Upon the conveyance of ownership of a Lot to any Person other than Declarant, including all resales, a capital contribution assessment (an initiation fee) shall become due and payable to the Association by each new Owner. The amount of the capital contribution assessment shall be set by the Board of Directors at any time during the year in which this Declaration is recorded. Thereafter, prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year, the Board of Directors may determine the amount of the capital contribution assessment for the upcoming new fiscal year. In the event the Board does not determine the amount of the capital contribution assessment prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year, then the capital contribution assessment amount in effect at such time shall, by default, continue for the next fiscal year. The capital contribution assessment shall not be deemed to be an advance payment of any assessment and may not be paid in lieu of any assessment. The capital contribution assessment shall be the personal obligation of the new Owner and shall constitute a lien against the Lot. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, no capital contribution assessment shall be due as a result of a conveyance of a Lot to an Owner's spouse, a person cohabitating with the Owner, or a corporation, partnership, company, or legal entity in which the Owner is a principal.
- 6.10. Commencement of Assessments. The obligation to pay assessments shall commence as to each Lot on the date of the first conveyance of ownership of such Lot to any Person not constituting Declarant or a Builder, or the actual occupancy for residential purposes of the Lot for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued, whichever is first to occur. The use of a Lot as a model home by Declarant or a Builder shall not constitute occupancy for residential purposes.
- 6.11. <u>Declarant's Obligation for Assessment</u>. Declarant shall not be liable for the payment of any assessments, including annual, special or specific assessments, on its unsold Lots. However, Declarant may, but shall not be obligated to, elect to contribute to the Association on an annual basis the difference between the amount of assessments levied on the Lots subject to assessments and the amount of the Association's actual expenditures during the fiscal year (a

- "Subsidy"). Any Subsidy may be treated, in the Declarant's sole discretion, as either a voluntary contribution or a loan from the Declarant to the Association. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary herein or the Bylaws, any loan from Declarant to the Association shall not require the approval of the members of the Association. A Subsidy may be evidenced by one or more promissory notes from the Association in favor of the Declarant. The execution by the Board of such promissory note or notes from the Association in favor of the Declarant shall not constitute a conflicting interest transaction. The payment of a Subsidy in any fiscal year shall under no circumstances obligate Declarant to continue payment of a Subsidy in future years.
- 6.12. <u>Delinquent Assessments</u>. All assessments and related charges not paid on or before the due date shall be delinquent, and the Owner shall be in default.
- (a) If any assessment, fine, or charge is not paid in full within ten (10) days of the due date, a late charge equal to the greater of ten dollars (\$10.00) or ten percent (10%) of the amount not paid or such higher amount as may be authorized by law, may be imposed without further notice or warning to the delinquent Owner, and interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum or such higher amount as may be authorized by law, shall accrue from the due date.
- (b) If partial payment of an assessment, fine, or charge is made, the amount received shall be applied, in respective order, to post-judgment attorney's fee from any prior judgment, if any, then to costs and attorney's fees not reduced to a judgment, then to interest, then to late charges, then to delinquent assessments and then to current assessments.
- (c) If an assessment, fine, or charge due from an Owner remains delinquent and unpaid for more than thirty (30) days from the date due, then a notice of delinquency may be given to that Owner stating that if the unpaid assessment or charge remains delinquent for more than ten (10) days from the date of the notice of delinquency, the Board may accelerate and declare immediately due all of that owner's unpaid installments of the assessment. If the Owner fails to pay all amounts currently due within ten (10) days of the date of the notice of delinquency, the Board may then accelerate and declare immediately due all installments of the assessment without any further notice being given to the delinquent Owner. Upon acceleration, that Owner shall thereby lose the privilege of paying the assessment in installments, unless reinstated in the Board's discretion. The notice of acceleration provided herein may be included in a collection litigation complaint filed against an owner for unpaid assessments and charges.
- (d) If an assessment, fine, or charge remains unpaid more than sixty (60) days after the due date, the Association, acting through the Board, may institute suit to collect all amounts due pursuant to the provisions of the Declaration, the Bylaws, and Georgia law, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred (and including post-judgment reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred from any prior judgment, if any).

- (e) A member's right to vote and right to use the Common Property shall automatically be suspended without notice during any period in which a member is more than thirty (30) days delinquent on any assessment or charge, and the member shall be ineligible to vote on any matter or use the Common Property until the member's account balance has been paid in full.
- (f) If an assessment, fine, or charge remains unpaid more than thirty (30) days after the due date, the Association, acting through the Board, shall have the right to suspend utilities or other services to the Lot paid for as a common expense by the Association, if any. Any costs incurred by the Association in discontinuing and/or reconnecting any service, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, shall be an assessment against the Lot. The utilities or other services shall not be required to be restored until all amounts owed by the Owner have paid in full and the expenses to disconnect and/or reconnect the utilities or other services have been paid in full. An Owner whose utility or service has been suspended hereunder shall not be entitled to use any such utility or service from any source, and any such unauthorized use shall be considered a theft of services.
- 6.13. Statement of Account. Any Owner, Mortgagee, or a Person having executed a contract for the purchase of a Lot, or a lender considering a loan to be secured by a Lot, shall be entitled, upon written request, to a statement from the Association setting forth the amount of assessments due and unpaid, including any late charges, interest, fines, or other charges against such Lot. The Association shall respond in writing within five (5) business days of receipt of the request for a statement; provided, however, the Association may require the payment of a fee as a prerequisite to the issuance of such a statement. Such written statement shall be binding on the Association as to the amount of assessments due on the Lot as of the date specified therein.

ARTICLE VII. ARCHITECTURAL CONTROLS

7.1. Architectural Standards. No Owner, Occupant, or any other Person, except the Declarant, may make any exterior change, alteration, modification (including exterior painting), or construction on a Lot or the Common Property, nor erect, place or post any thing or object which may affect the appearance of a Lot or the Common Property (including, but not limited to, any fence, playground equipment, light (except for reasonable seasonal decorative lights, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, displayed on the Owner's Lot or Dwelling between October 1 and January 15), basketball goal, storm door, exterior sculpture, or fountain), nor place any object in any window which is visible from the exterior of a Dwelling, without first obtaining the written approval of the Architectural Control Committee ("ACC").

The standard for approval of all improvements hereunder shall include, but not be limited to: (1) aesthetic consideration, (2) materials to be used, (3) compliance with the Community-Wide Standard, this Declaration, or design standards which may be adopted by the ACC, (4) harmony with the external design of the existing dwellings, Lots and structures, and the location in relation

to surrounding dwellings, structures and topography, and (5) any other matter deemed to be relevant or appropriate by the ACC.

Applications for approval of any such architectural modification shall be in writing and shall provide such information as the ACC may reasonably require. If the ACC fails to approve, conditionally approve, or to disapprove such application within forty-five (45) days after the application and such information as the ACC may reasonably require shall have been submitted, its approval will not be required and this Article shall be deemed complied with, unless such construction, modification or improvement otherwise is in violation of the Declaration, the Bylaws, the design standards, the Association's rules and regulations, or applicable zoning ordinances.

The ACC shall be the sole arbiter of the application and may withhold approval for any reason whatsoever, including purely aesthetic considerations. The Association, acting through the Board, shall be entitled to stop any construction or modification which is not in conformance with approved plans. The ACC may publish design standards for exterior alterations or additions (the "Design Standards"), and any request in compliance therewith shall be approved.

This Article, including, but not limited to, the requirement to obtain ACC approval, shall not apply to the activities of the Declarant, including, but not limited to, any activity performed by or on behalf of the Declarant.

7.2. Architectural Control Committee.

- (100%) of the Lots shown on the final recorded plat or plats for the Community have been issued a certificate of occupancy and have been conveyed to any Person not constituting Declarant or a Builder for residential use, the Declarant shall be the sole member of the ACC and shall have the exclusive authority to administer and enforce architectural controls under this Article. Declarant's rights under this Article may be assigned in whole or in part. The Declarant shall further have the right, but not the obligation, to establish subcommittees to exercise any right granted to Declarant hereunder.
- (2) Upon the expiration of Declarant's authority to control architectural review for the Community, the Board of Directors shall appoint the members of the ACC. The ACC shall thereafter constitute a standing committee of the Association, and the ACC shall consist of the Board unless the Board delegates to other Persons the authority to serve on the ACC. The ACC shall have the authority to select and employ professional consultants to assist it in discharging its duties, the cost of such consultants to be paid by the Owner of any Lot for which an application has been submitted for approval. The Owner of any such Lot shall be responsible for paying the full costs of each review, whether or not the submitted application is approved by the ACC, and the ACC may require payment of all such costs prior to approval of the application. The ACC also

may charge reasonable fees to cover the cost of review or inspections performed hereunder. At any time during the review process, so long as the Declarant or a Builder owns any property described in Exhibit "A" or has the unilateral right to annex Additional Property to this Declaration, the Declarant shall have the power to veto any decision taken by the ACC.

7.3. Appeal. In the event the ACC disapproves any application or part thereof, an Owner shall have the right to appeal the ACC's decision to the Board of Directors. Such appeal must be in writing, contain all information the Owner would like the Board to consider, and be mailed to the Association by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Board shall rule on the appeal within thirty (30) days of receiving written notice requesting an appeal from the Owner. If the Board fails to render a decision on such appeal within thirty (30) days after the appeal and such information as the Board may reasonably require shall have been received, the ACC's decision shall be deemed overturned and this Article shall be deemed complied with, unless such construction, modification or improvement otherwise is in violation of the Declaration, the Bylaws, the design standards, the Association's rules and regulations, or applicable zoning ordinances.

In ruling on the appeal, the Board shall consider all relevant materials presented to it by either the Owner or the ACC, the decision of the ACC, and the application of the Owner to the ACC. The Board of Directors shall have the final authority to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve or disapprove the appeal of the Owner. If the Board does not receive written notice from the Owner by certified mail requesting an appeal within fourteen (14) days from the date of the ACC's notice to the Owner of its decision, the decision of the ACC shall become final and all rights of appeal shall terminate.

All decisions of the Declarant-controlled ACC shall be final, and there shall be no appeals of decisions of the Declarant-controlled ACC.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ANY APPLICATION PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE MAY BE MADE ON ANY BASIS, INCLUDING SOLELY THE BASIS OF AESTHETIC DECLARANT, CONSIDERATIONS, AND THE NEITHER ASSOCIATION, THE BOARD, THE ACC, NOR ANY MEMBER OF THE FOREGOING SHALL BEAR ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THE DESIGN, QUALITY, STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OR SOUNDNESS OF APPROVED CONSTRUCTION OR MODIFICATIONS, NOR FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING CODES, ZONING REGULATIONS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REQUIREMENTS. NEITHER THE DECLARANT, THE ASSOCIATION, THE BOARD, THE ACC, OR ANY MEMBER OF ANY OF THE FOREGOING SHALL BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY INJURY, DAMAGES OR LOSS ARISING OUT OF THE MANNER, DESIGN, OR QUALITY OF CONSTRUCTION ON OR MODIFICATIONS TO ANY LOT, NOR MAY ANY ACTION BE BROUGHT AGAINST THE DECLARANT, ASSOCIATION, THE BOARD, THE ACC, OR ANY MEMBER THEREOF, FOR ANY SUCH INJURY, DAMAGE, OR LOSS. NEITHER THE DECLARANT, THE ASSOCIATION, THE BOARD, THE ACC, NOR ANY MEMBER THEREOF, SHALL BE LIABLE TO ANY PERSON FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER FOR ANY INJURIES OR DAMAGES WHATSOEVER RELATING IN ANY WAY TO THE APPROVAL, DISAPPROVAL, CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, OR THE FAILURE TO APPROVE OR DENY ANY APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO IT PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF THIS ARTICLE.

- 7.5. No Waiver of Future Approvals. Each Owner acknowledges that the members of the Board and the ACC will change from time to time and that interpretation, application, and enforcement of the architectural standards may vary accordingly. The approval of the Declarant, the Board or the ACC of any proposals, plans, and specifications or drawings for any work done or proposed, or in connection with any other matter requiring the approval of the Declarant, the Board or the ACC, shall not constitute a waiver of any right to withhold approval or consent as to any similar proposals, plans and specifications, drawings, or matters whatever subsequently or additionally submitted for approval or consent.
- 7.6. Enforcement. Any construction, alteration, or other work done in violation of this Article, the Declaration, the Bylaws, the Design Standards or any applicable zoning regulations shall be deemed to be nonconforming. Upon written request from the Declarant or the Board, a violating Owner shall, at the Owner's sole cost and expense, remove such nonconforming construction, alteration, or other work and restore the property to substantially the same condition as existed prior to such construction, alteration or work. Should the Owner fail to do so, the Declarant, the Board, or their designees shall have the right, in addition to all other available remedies, to enter the property, remove the violation and restore the property, or obtain a court order compelling the violating Owner to do so. All costs thereof, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, may be assessed against such Lot, regardless of whether or not litigation is filed.

In addition to the above, the Board shall have the authority and standing, on behalf of the Association, to impose reasonable fines and to pursue all legal and equitable remedies available to enforce the provisions of this Article and its decisions or those of the ACC. All costs of any such action, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, may be assessed against such Lot. Furthermore, the Board shall have the authority to record in the Jackson County, Georgia land records notices of violation of the provisions of this Article. The Board may also pursue any other enforcement option set forth in this Declaration.

- 7.7. Commencement and Completion of Construction. All improvements approved by the ACC hereunder must be commenced within ninety (90) days from the date of approval. If not commenced within such time, then such approval shall be deemed revoked by the ACC, unless the ACC gives a written extension for commencing the work. Additionally, except with written ACC approval otherwise, and except for delays caused by strikes, fires, national emergencies, critical materials shortages or other intervening forces beyond the control of the Owner, all work approved by the ACC hereunder relating to the initial construction of the Dwelling shall be completed within one (1) year of commencement and for all other approvals within ninety (90) days of commencement. If the work is not completed within such time, then such approval shall be deemed revoked by the ACC, unless the ACC gives a written extension for completing the work. This Section shall not apply to any construction or modification performed by or on the behalf of the Declarant.
- 7.8. Condition of Approval. As a condition of approval for a requested architectural change, modification, addition, or alteration, an Owner, on behalf of himself or herself and his or her successors-in-interest, shall assume all responsibilities for maintenance, repair, replacement and insurance of such change, modification, addition, or alteration, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Board. It is the responsibility of every Owner of a Lot to determine for himself or herself what architectural modifications have been made to his or her Lot by any predecessor-in-interest. In the discretion of the Board, an Owner may be made to verify such condition of approval by written instrument in recordable form acknowledged by such Owner on behalf of himself or herself and all successors-in-interest.

ARTICLE VIII. USE RESTRICTIONS

Each Owner of a Lot shall be responsible for ensuring that the Owner's family, guests, tenants, and Occupants comply with all provisions of this Declaration, the Bylaws, and the rules and regulations of the Association. Furthermore, each Owner and Occupant shall always endeavor to observe and promote the cooperative purposes for which the Association was established. In addition to any rights the Association may have against the Owner's family, guests, tenants, or Occupants, the Association may take action under this Declaration against the Owner as if the Owner committed the violation in conjunction with the Owner's family, guests, tenants, or Occupants.

8.1. Residential Use. Each Lot shall be used for residential purposes only, and no trade or business of any kind may be conducted in or from a Lot or any part of the Community, including business uses ancillary to a primary residential use, except that the Owner or Occupant residing in a Dwelling on a Lot may conduct such ancillary business activities within that Dwelling so long as (1) the existence or operation of the business activity is not apparent or detectable by sight, sound, or smell from the exterior of the Dwelling; (2) the business activity does not involve visitation of the Lot by employees, clients, customers, suppliers, or other business invitees; provided, however, this

provision shall not preclude delivery of materials or items by United States Postal delivery or by other customary parcel delivery services (U.P.S., Federal Express, etc.); (3) the business activity conforms to all zoning requirements for the Community; (4) the business activity does not increase traffic in the Community; (5) the business activity does not increase the insurance premium paid by the Association or otherwise negatively affect the ability of the Association to obtain insurance coverage; and (6) the business activity is consistent with the residential character of the Community and does not constitute a nuisance or a hazardous or offensive use, or threaten the security or safety of other residents of the Community, as may be determined in the Board's sole discretion.

The terms "business" and "trade," as used in this provision, shall be construed to have their ordinary, generally accepted meanings, and shall include, without limitation, any occupation, work, or activity undertaken on an ongoing basis which involves the provision of goods or services to persons other than the provider's family and for which the provider receives a fee, compensation, or other form of consideration, regardless of whether: (i) such activity is engaged in full or part-time; (ii) such activity is intended to or does generate a profit; or (iii) a license is required therefor.

Notwithstanding the above, the activities of the Declarant, or any Person acting on behalf of Declarant, shall not be subject to this Section.

8.2. Number of Occupants.

- (a) The maximum number of occupants in a Dwelling on a Lot shall be limited to two (2) people per bedroom in the Dwelling as originally constructed. "Occupancy," for purposes hereof, shall be defined as staying overnight in a Dwelling for a total of more than thirty (30) days, either consecutive or nonconsecutive, in any calendar year. Upon written application, the Board shall grant variances to this restriction to comply with provisions of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 or any amendments thereto.
- (b) If an Owner of a Lot is a corporation, partnership, trust or other legal entity not being a natural person, the entity shall designate in writing to the Board the name(s) of the natural person(s) who will occupy the Dwelling on the Lot. The designated person(s) to occupy the Dwelling may not be changed, added to, or modified more frequently than once every twenty-four (24) months without the written approval of the Board of Directors, who may deny such request in its sole discretion.
- 8.3. <u>Vehicles and Parking</u>. No Owner or Occupant may keep more than a reasonable number of vehicles per Lot at any time. The Board may adopt reasonable rules limiting the number of vehicles which may be parked on a Lot and such other reasonable rules governing the parking of vehicles within the Community. Vehicles may only be parked in garages, driveways or other areas authorized in writing by the Board. Vehicles shall not be parked on any lawn, yard, or street.

Disabled and stored vehicles are prohibited from being parked in the Community except in garages. For purposes of this Section, a vehicle shall be considered "disabled" if it does not have a current license tag or is inoperable. A vehicle shall be considered "stored" if it remains in a location, other than in a garage, without prior written Board permission, for fourteen (14) consecutive days or longer or if it is covered for more than two (2) consecutive days with a car cover or tarp.

Boats, trailers, trucks with a load capacity of one (1) ton or more, full-size vans (excluding mini-vans or utility vehicles used as passenger vehicles), recreational vehicles (RV's and motor homes), vehicles used primarily for commercial purposes and containing visible evidence of commercial use (such as tool boxes or tool racks), and vehicles with commercial writings on their exteriors are prohibited from being parked in the Community, except in garages or behind the Owner's Dwelling and properly screened from view of neighboring Lots and streets. The Board may adopt rules and regulations regarding proper screening.

For Lots that do contain a Dwelling for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued, no one is permitted to camp, live in, or stay overnight in a recreational vehicle on a Lot for a period greater than two (2) weeks per month. For Lots that do not contain a Dwelling for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued, no one is permitted to camp, live in, or stay overnight in a recreational vehicle on a Lot for any period of time greater than one (1) week per six (6) months.

Notwithstanding the above, trucks, vans, commercial vehicles and vehicles with commercial writings on their exteriors shall be allowed temporarily on a Lot or the Common Property during normal business hours for the purpose of serving the Lot or the Common Property; provided, that, without the written consent of the Board, no such vehicle shall be authorized to remain on a Lot or the Common Property overnight or for any purpose except serving a Lot or the Common Property.

If any vehicle is parked on any portion of the Community in violation of this Section or in violation of the Association's rules and regulations, the Board may send a notice to the vehicle owner or user, or place a notice on the vehicle, specifying the nature of the violation and stating that after twenty-four (24) hours the vehicle may be towed or booted. The notice shall include the name and telephone number of a person to contact regarding the alleged violation and shall include the name and telephone number of the person or entity which will do the towing or booting. If twenty-four (24) hours after such notice is placed on the vehicle, or three (3) days after the notice has been sent to the owner, the violation continues or thereafter occurs again within six (6) months of such notice, the vehicle may be towed or booted in accordance with the notice, without further notice to the vehicle owner or user.

If a vehicle is parked in a fire lane, is blocking another vehicle or access to another Owner's or Occupant's Lot or Dwelling, is obstructing the flow of traffic, or otherwise creates a hazardous condition, no notice shall be required and the vehicle may be towed immediately. If a vehicle is

towed or booted in accordance with this Section, neither the Association nor any director, officer or agent of the Association shall be liable to any person for any claim of damage as a result of the towing or booting activity. The Association's right to tow or boot is in addition to, and not in limitation of all other rights of the Association, including the right to assess fines.

The activities of the Declarant, or any Person acting on behalf of Declarant, shall not be subject to this Section.

8.4. <u>Animals</u>. Except as specifically provided herein, no Owner or Occupant may keep any animal other than a reasonable number of generally recognized household pets on any portion of the Community. No pigs, goats, cows, livestock, or any other farm animal may be brought into or kept in the Community at any time without the prior written approval of the Board; provided, however, an Owner or Occupant may keep a reasonable number of horses and chickens on such Owner's or Occupant's Lot. No Owner or Occupant may keep, breed or maintain any animal for any commercial purpose. Dogs must be kept on a leash and be under the physical control of a responsible person at all times while outdoors in unfenced areas. Dogs may not be left unattended while leashed or tethered to any post, tree, or object. No structure for the care, housing, or confinement of any animal shall be constructed or maintained on a Lot without prior written ACC approval.

Feces left by an animal on the Common Property, on any Lot, or in any Dwelling, including the pet owner's Lot or Dwelling, or anywhere in the Community must be removed promptly by the owner of the animal or the person responsible for the animal. Fines may be imposed to enforce this provision.

No animal determined in the sole discretion of the Board to be a dangerous animal may be brought into or kept in the Community at any time by any Lot Owner, Occupant, or guest of an Owner or Occupant. Any animal which endangers the health or safety of any Owner or Occupant of any Lot or which creates a nuisance or unreasonable disturbance, as may be determined in the Board's sole discretion, must be permanently removed from the Community upon seven (7) days written notice by the Board. If the Owner or Occupant fails to comply with such notice, the Board may remove the animal and/or obtain a court order requiring the Owner or Occupant to do so. Any animal which, in the Board's sole discretion, presents an immediate danger to the health, safety or property of any member of the community may be removed by the Board without prior notice to the animal's owner. The Association shall have no obligation to remove or cause to be removed any animal from the Community.

ANY OWNER OR OCCUPANT WHO KEEPS OR MAINTAINS ANY ANIMAL ON ANY PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE INDEMNIFIED AND AGREED TO HOLD THE ASSOCIATION, ITS DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND AGENTS FREE AND HARMLESS FROM ANY

LOSS, CLAIM OR LIABILITY OF ANY KIND OR CHARACTER WHATEVER ARISING BY REASON OF KEEPING OR MAINTAINING SUCH ANIMAL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

- 8.5. Exterior Finishes. All front exteriors of Dwellings shall be constructed of stone, brick, or a combination of stone, brick, and cement fiber siding; provided, however, the front exterior shall consist of at least fifty percent (50%) brick or stone. No vinyl siding shall be permitted. The side and rear exteriors of the Dwellings must also be made of the same products are provided herein but there is no minimum requirement of the percentages used.
- 8.6. Square Footage Requirements. All Dwellings must meet the minimum "heated" square footage requirements (exclusive of any space in garage, porches, and finished basements) as required by any zoning conditions of Jackson County, Georgia but in no case shall "heated" square footage be less than 2,500 square feet for a single-story Dwelling or 3,800 square feet for a two-story Dwelling.
- 8.7. <u>Garages</u>. All garages are to be enclosed with doors and side-entry. Front entry garages must be approved by the Declarant or the ACC.
- Fences. No chain link fence or cyclone fences may be placed in the Community, 8.8. except by the Declarant. All fences, except those installed by or on behalf of the Declarant or the Association, must first be approved by the ACC before the commencement of any installation of the fence. All fencing must be at installed at least six (6) feet behind the front plane of the Dwelling and be constructed of white vinyl or such other material as may be approved by the ACC; provided, however, the ACC may permit black four (4) board wooden fencing to be installed in the front yard. The Declarant or the ACC may adopt design standards for approved fence styles and locations. The ACC shall have the authority to approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove such Owner's request for any reason, including, but not limited to, aesthetic considerations, the location of the fence to surrounding dwellings, structures, materials used, or topography, and any other matter deemed to be relevant or appropriate by the ACC. All Owners understand and agree that certain Owners' request may be approved and certain Owners' request may be denied based upon these considerations, and no Owner or other Person may bring any action against the Declarant, the Association, the Board, the ACC, or any director, officer, employee, agent, or member thereof relating directly or indirectly to the approval or disapproval of such a request.
- 8.9. Recreational or Play Equipment. All recreational and play equipment must be approved in writing by the ACC prior to installation. Recreational or play equipment, whenever possible, shall be located directly behind the Dwelling. If this is not possible, the equipment must be least ten feet (10') inside all property lines and be screened from view from the street and neighboring Lots. Such equipment may not be approved for a location in the front or side yards. Equipment shall be made of natural wood, dark colored metal or dark colored plastic. The only

approved colors for such equipment are black, dark green, or dark brown. The tops and/or roofs of such equipment shall be of natural dark painted materials, dark green canvas or dark shingles.

- 8.10. Accessory Structures. No accessory structure, including, but not limited to, sheds, tool storage areas, workshops, outbuildings, well houses, chicken coops, greenhouses, garden sheds, or detached garages, may be installed, erected, placed, constructed, or allowed to remain on a Lot without the prior, written approval of the ACC. Such accessory structures shall conform in exterior design and quality to the Dwelling on the same Lot and meet all Jackson County, Georgia ordinances and building regulations. An accessory structure placed on a Lot shall be located only behind the Dwelling as such Dwelling fronts on the street abutting such Lot. Such accessory structures shall also be located with such side and rear setback lines as may be required by applicable zoning law. Well houses shall not exceed six feet (6') in width, six feet (6') in length, and six feet (6') in height and may be located on such portion of the Lot as may be approved by the ACC.
- 8.11. <u>Guest Houses or House Additions</u>. All guest houses and house additions must receive the prior, written approval of the ACC and must comply with all Jackson County, Georgia ordinances and building codes.
- 8.12. Occupancy of Lot and Dwelling. No Dwelling or other structure constructed on a Lot may be occupied for any period of time until such Dwelling or other structure is finished and a certificate of occupancy is issued for such Dwelling or other structure by Jackson County, Georgia.
- 8.13. <u>Landscaping</u>. All yards must be seeded and strawed or sodded. All beds shall be mulched with pine straw or natural shredded pine bark. Seasonable planting areas may be changed and planted as appropriate for the season. All beds shall remain the general size and shape of the original planting beds installed by the Declarant or Builder unless approved in writing by the ACC. Artificial vegetation of any type is prohibited. All additional landscaping added after initial construction must be approved by the ACC or Declarant prior to installation.
- 8.14. <u>Tree Removal</u>. No tree of any kind located within a buffer area shall be removed without prior, written approval of the Declarant. Further, all tree removal must comply with all state, county, city and municipal laws and ordinances.
- 8.15. Antennas and Satellite Dishes. No transmission antenna of any kind may be creeted anywhere in the Community without written approval of the ACC. No satellite dish, direct broadcast satellite (DBS) antenna, or multi-channel multi-point distribution service (MMDS) larger than one meter in diameter shall be placed, allowed, or maintained upon any portion of the Community, including a Lot. Satellite dishes and DBS and MMDS antennas one meter or less in diameter and television broadcast service antennas may only be installed in accordance with Federal Communication Commission (FCC) rules and the rules and regulations of the Association

authorized by the FCC, both as may be amended from time to time. Such items shall be installed to the rear of the Lot in the least conspicuous location available on the Lot which permits reception of an acceptable signal. Except as provided by this Section, no antenna or other device for the transmission or reception of television signals, radio signals or any form of electromagnetic wave or radiation shall be erected, used or maintained outdoors on any portion of the Community, whether attached to a home or structure or otherwise.

- 8.16. Abandoned Personal Property. Personal property is prohibited from being stored, kept, or allowed to remain for a period of more than twenty-four (24) hours upon any portion of the Common Property without prior written Board permission. Neither the Declarant, the Association, nor any director, officer or agent thereof shall be liable to any Person for any claim of damage resulting from the removal and/or discard of the personal property after such twenty-four (24) hour period.
- 8.17. <u>Use of Common Property</u>. There shall be no obstruction of the Common Property, nor shall any vehicle or anything else be kept, parked or stored on the streets and drives within the Community without prior approval of the Board. No Owner or other Person shall make any modification to or alteration of the Common Property without the prior written approval of the Board.

The activities of the Declarant and/or the Association, or any Person acting on behalf of the Declarant and/or the Association, shall not be subject to this Section.

- 8.18. Prohibition of Nuisance and Noise. Noxious, destructive, offensive, or unsanitary activity shall not be carried on within the Community. No Lot Owner or Occupant may use or allow the use of the Lot or any portion of the Community at any time, in any way, which may endanger the health or property of other Occupants, unreasonably annoy, disturb or cause embarrassment or discomfort to other Owners or Occupants, or, in the Board's discretion, constitute a nuisance. The intention of this provision is to grant the Association and aggrieved Owners and Occupants a right of redress for actions, activities or conduct which unreasonably disturbs or impairs the peaceful and safe enjoyment of the Community. In this regard, specific unauthorized and unreasonable annoyances or disturbances shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (a) Any screaming, shouting, excessively loud talking, whistling, or playing of music or television if such conduct can be heard in the normal course of activities in any other Dwelling;
- (b) Any fighting, raucous behavior, or insobriety if such conduct can be heard in any other Dwelling;

- (c) The use of any alarm, equipment, or devise, mechanical or otherwise, which creates or produces excessively loud sounds or any vibrations at any time if such sounds can be heard or vibrations felt in the normal course of activities in any other Dwelling;
- (d) Any threatening or intimidating conduct towards any resident, guest, or pet in the Community;
- (c) Any conduct which, in the Board's reasonable discretion, creates any danger or risk of injury to others or damage to property or which creates any threat to health or safety of any other resident or pet;
- (f) Any excessively loud play or playground activities at any time if such conduct can be heard in the normal course of activities in any other Dwelling;
- (g) Any consistent dog barking that can be heard in the normal course of activities in any other Dwelling;
- (h) Any conduct which creates any noxious or offensive odor at any time if such odors can be detected in the normal course of activities in any other Dwelling;
- (i) Any similar action or activity which interferes with the peaceful use and enjoyment of other Lots or the Common Property by any Owner, member of the Owner's family, guests, invitees, or Occupants; or
- (j) Any construction or similar activities, other than construction activities of or on behalf of the Declarant or a Builder, which can be heard in other Dwellings outside the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Saturday.

Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the rights of an aggrieved Owner or Occupant to proceed individually against a violator of this Section. The Board may, in its discretion, require any aggrieved Owner or Occupant to seek redress personally against the violator before the Association intervenes and commences enforcement action hereunder; provided, further, due to the general nature of violations of this Section, the Board may, in its discretion, elect that the Association not intervene or enforce this Section. No claim for any loss, damage or otherwise, and no defense of selective, arbitrary, or capricious enforcement, shall exist for any Person as a result of any decision by the Board not to enforce this Section.

8.19. <u>Signs</u>. Except as may be required by legal proceedings, no signs, advertising posters or billboards of any kind shall be creeted, placed, or permitted to remain in the Community without the prior approval of the Board or its designee, except that two (2) professional security signs not to exceed ten inches (10") by ten inches (10") each in size may be displayed on a Lot or from within a Dwelling on a Lot, one (1) professionally lettered "For Sale" sign not to exceed two feet (2") by two

feet (2') in size may be displayed on a Lot or from within a Dwelling on a Lot being offered for sale, and one (1) political sign not to exceed three (3) feet by three (3) feet may be displayed on a Lot or from within a Dwelling on a Lot, which shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the successful election or run-off has been completed. The Board shall have the right to erect reasonable and appropriate signs on the Common Property on behalf of the Association. The Board also shall have the authority to adopt regulations permitting temporary signs on Lots announcing open houses, births, birthdays or other events for limited periods of time. No "For Lease" sign shall be allowed on a Lot or within a Dwelling which is visible from the exterior of the Dwelling without the approval of the Board. No "For Sale" signs or directional signs shall be permitted on the Common Property without the approval of the Board. This Section shall not apply to the Declarant or its agents or designees.

- 8.20. Rubbish, Trash, and Garbage. All rubbish, trash, and garbage shall be regularly removed from the Lot, Dwelling, and Common Property, and shall not be allowed to accumulate on a Lot, the Common Property, or in a Dwelling. Rubbish, trash, and garbage shall be disposed of in appropriate scaled bags and placed in proper receptacles for collection. Trash cans shall only be brought to the curb the night prior to day for trash collection, and shall be removed from the curb no later than the night of trash collection. At all other times, trash cans shall be stored in the garage or such other areas as may be designated by the Board. The Board may establish additional rules and regulations regarding the storage location of trash bags, trash cans, and receptacles and the placement of same for pick-up. No organic material shall be buried anywhere in the Community. This Section shall not apply to the Declarant, or its agents or designees.
- 8.21. <u>Unsightly or Unkempt Conditions</u>. The pursuit of hobbies or other activities, including, but not limited to, the assembly and disassembly of motor vehicles and other mechanical devices, which might tend to cause disorderly, unsightly, or unkempt conditions, shall not be pursued or undertaken in any part of the Community, except in a Dwelling or garage with the garage door shut. Clothing, bedding, rugs, mops, appliances, indoor furniture, and other household items shall not be placed or stored outside the Dwelling. Only appropriate outdoor items, such as neatly stacked firewood, patio furniture, grills, and similar items may be kept outside of a Dwelling. Woodpiles should not be visible from the street. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to adopt reasonable rules and regulations governing the placement of items outside of a Dwelling. This Section shall not apply to the Declarant, or its agents or designees.
- 8.22. <u>Impairment of Dwellings, Easements, and Buffers</u>. An Owner shall not undertake any act or work that will impair the structural soundness or integrity of a Dwelling or impair any easement or buffers, nor do any act nor allow any condition to exist which will adversely affect other Lots or their Owners or Occupants. The protection and preservation of easements and buffers can be enforced by the Declaration, the Association, other Owners, property owners adjacent to the Community, county and state authorities, and preservation groups.

- 8.23. <u>Erosion Control</u>. No activity which may create erosion or siltation problems anywhere in the Community shall be undertaken, except construction activities undertaken by or on behalf of Declarant. Owner shall be responsible for implementation of and conformance with state and county erosion control ordinances.
- 8.24. <u>Window Air Conditioners</u>. No air conditioning unit shall be installed in any window of any Dwelling.
 - 8.25. <u>Clothesline</u>. Clotheslines of any type are prohibited.
- 8.26. <u>Delivery Receptacles and Property Identification Markers</u>. The Declarant and the ACC shall have the right to approve the location, color, size, design, lettering and all other particulars of receptacles for the receipt of mail, newspapers or similarly delivered materials, and of name signs for such receptacles as well as property identification markers.
- 8.27. <u>Subdivision of Lots</u>. No Lot may be split, divided, or subdivided into a smaller Lot.
- 8.28. <u>Garage Sale</u>. No garage sale, yard sale, or similar activity shall be conducted in the Community without prior approval of the Board. The Board may additionally permit Community garage sale or yard sale days.
- 8.29. <u>Easements</u>. All property subjected to this Declaration shall be subject to those easements, if any, set forth on any recorded plat thereof.

ARTICLE IX. LEASING

- 9.1. <u>Definition</u>. "Leasing," for purposes of the Declaration, is defined as the regular, exclusive occupancy of a Lot by any person or persons other than the Owner; provided, however, leasing shall not include occupancy by the spouse, child or parent of an Owner and shall not include the occupancy by a roommate of an Owner who occupies the Lot as such Owner's primary residence.
 - 9.2. Leasing Provisions. Leasing of Lots shall be governed by the following provisions:
- (a) <u>Notice</u>. At least fifteen (15) days prior to entering into the lease of a Lot, the Owner shall provide the Board of Directors with a copy of the proposed lease and such other information as the Board may reasonably require. The Board may approve or disapprove the form of said lease. In the event a lease form is disapproved, the Board shall notify the Owner of the requisite action to be taken in order to bring the lease form into compliance with the Declaration, any rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and any criteria determined by the Board. Within ten (10) days from the execution of the lease by both parties, the Owner shall provide the

Board with a copy of the executed lease and the names and phone number of the lessees. Nothing contained in this Section shall permit the Board to approve or deny a lessee.

- (b) General. Lots may be leased only in their entirety; no fraction or portion may be rented. There shall be no subleasing of Lots or assignment of leases unless approved in writing by the Board. All leases shall be for a period of at least one (1) year unless otherwise approved in writing by the Board. Short-term rentals, transient tenants, and any other service utilized to temporarily rent or lease Lots as accommodations to guests or tenants (for example, Airbnb, HomeAway, VRBO, or other similar services) are expressly prohibited. Such prohibition applies whether or not the Owner resides at the Lot. The Lot Owner must provide the lessee copies of the Declaration, Bylaws, and Association rules and regulations.
- (c) <u>Liability for Assessments and Compliance with Declaration, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations</u>. Any lease of a Lot shall be deemed to contain the following provisions, whether or not expressly therein stated, and each Owner covenants and agrees that any lease of a Lot shall contain the following language and agrees that if such language is not expressly contained therein, then such language shall be incorporated into a lease by existence of this covenant on the Lot. Any lessee, by occupancy of a Lot under the definition of "leasing" stated herein, agrees to the applicability of this covenant and incorporation of the following language into the lease.
- (i) <u>Liability for Assessments</u>. Lessee agrees to be personally obligated for the payment of all assessments and all other charges which become due as a consequence of lessee's activities, including, but not limited to, activities which violate provisions of the Declaration, the Bylaws, or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The above provision shall not be construed to release the Lot Owner from any obligation, including the obligation for assessments, for which he or she would otherwise be responsible.

Additionally, when a Lot Owner who is leasing his or her Lot fails to pay any assessment or any other charge for a period of more than thirty (30) days after it is due and payable, then the delinquent Lot Owner hereby consents to the assignment of any rent received from the lessee during the period of delinquency, and, upon demand by the Board of Directors, lessee shall pay to the Association all unpaid annual and special assessments and other charges, as lawfully determined and made payable during the remaining term of the lease and any other period of occupancy by lessee following such demand. All such payments made by lessee shall reduce, by the same amount, lessee's obligation to make monthly rental payments to lessor. If lessee fails to comply with the Board's demand to pay assessments or other charges to the Association, lessee shall be personally obligated to pay to the Association all late charges, fines, interest, and costs of collection, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, to the same extent lessee would be required to make such payments to the Association if lessee were the Owner of the premises during the term of the agreement and any other period of occupancy by lessee, and including all amounts paid by lessee to lessor following the date of such demand from the Board.

(ii) Compliance with Declaration, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations. Lessee shall abide by and comply with all provisions of the Declaration, Bylaws, and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto and shall control the conduct of all other occupants and guests in order to insure compliance with the foregoing. Lessee acknowledges that the violation by lessee or any occupant living with lessee of any provision of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations adopted thereunder shall constitute a default under this lease. Owner shall cause all occupants of his or her Lot to comply with the Declaration, Bylaws, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and is responsible for all violations and losses caused by such occupants, notwithstanding the fact that such occupants of the Lot are fully liable and may be sanctioned for any violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. If the lessee, or a person living with the lessee, violates the Declaration, Bylaws, or a rule and regulation for which a fine is imposed, such fine may be assessed against the lessee and/or the Owner; provided, however, if a fine is not paid by the lessee within the time period set by the Board of Directors, the Owner shall pay the fine upon notice from the Board of the lessee's failure to do so. Unpaid fines shall constitute a lien against the Lot. Any lessee charged with a violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto is entitled to the same procedure to which an Owner is entitled prior to the imposition of a fine or other sanction.

Any violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto by lessee, any occupant, or any person living with lessee is deemed to be a violation of the terms of the lease and authorizes the Owner to terminate the lease without liability and to evict the lessee in accordance with Georgia law. The Owner hereby delegates and assigns to the Association, acting through the Board, the irrevocable power and authority of enforcement against the lessee for breaches resulting from the violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, including the irrevocable power and authority to evict the lessee on behalf and for the benefit of the Owner, in accordance with the terms hereof, or to require the Owner to do so. In the event the Association proceeds to evict the tenant, any costs, including attorney's fees and court costs, associated with the eviction shall be specially assessed against the Lot and the Owner thereof, such being deemed hereby as an expense which benefits the leased Lot and the Owner thereof.

- (iii) <u>Use of Common Property</u>. The Owner transfers and assigns to the lessee, for the term of the lease, any and all rights and privileges that the Owner has to use the Common Property, including, but not limited to, the use of any and all recreational facilities and other amenities, if any; provided, however, the Owner shall retain the right to use the Common Property for ingress and egress to and from the Owner's Lot.
- 9.3. <u>Leasing Administration Fee</u>. The leasing of Lots in the Community creates administrative burdens for the Association, including, but not limited to, updating the Association's records and ensuring compliance with this Article. Any Owner who leases a Lot will be required to pay the Association an annual Leasing Administration Fee. The initial Leasing Administration Fee shall be one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per year. The Board of

Directors, in its sole discretion, and from time to time, may increase or decrease the annual Leasing Administration Fee.

9.4. <u>Applicability of this Article</u>. This Article shall not apply to any leasing transaction entered into by or on behalf of the Declarant or the Association.

ARTICLE X. MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY

10.1. Association's Responsibility. The Association shall maintain and keep in good repair the Common Property. This maintenance shall include, without limitation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of all landscaping, grass areas, paving, mail kiosk, and other improvements situated on the Common Property. The Association shall also maintain and keep in good repair all water and sewer pipes or facilities which serve only the Common Property, to the extent that such pipes and facilities are not maintained by public, private, or municipal utility companies. The Association shall maintain the detention/retention ponds that serve the Community. The Association shall also maintain and keep in good repair the entry features for the Community, which shall include, but not be limited to, any monuments, landscaping, lighting, irrigation, and fencing of such entry features.

The Association shall further maintain and keep in good repair the Private Drive. This maintenance shall include, without limitation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of all paving, curbs, and gutters of the Private Drive. All costs incurred by the Association in maintaining the Private Drive shall be specifically assessed against the Owners of the Private Drive Lots in accordance with Article VI, Section 6.5 of this Declaration.

Such maintenance shall be performed consistent with this Declaration and the Community-Wide Standard established pursuant hereto.

If, during the course of performing any maintenance required herein, the Association discovers that maintenance, repair, or replacement is required of an item which is the Owner's responsibility, and such maintenance, repair, or replacement must be performed for the Association to properly complete its maintenance project, then the Association may perform such work on behalf of the Owner and at the Owner's expense without prior notice to the Owner.

Subject to the maintenance responsibilities herein provided, any maintenance or repair performed by an Owner or Occupant on or to the Common Property or any other area within the Community which is the Association's responsibility hereunder shall be performed at the sole expense of such Owner or Occupant, and the Owner or Occupant shall not be entitled to reimbursement from the Association even if the Association accepts the maintenance or repair. Additionally, in the event an Owner or Occupant performs such maintenance or repair, the Association may require the Owner or Occupant to restore such property to substantially the same

condition as it existed prior to such maintenance or repair or may fine the Owner or Occupant in accordance with the terms of this Declaration.

If the Board determines that the need for maintenance or repair is in those portions of the Community for which the Association is obligated to maintain and is caused through the actions or inactions of any Owner or Occupant, or his or her family, guests, lessees or invitees, then the Association may assess the cost of any such work against the Owner's Lot.

10.2. Owner's Responsibility. Except as specifically provided in Section 10.1 above, each Owner shall maintain and keep in good repair, condition, and order the Owner's Lot, the Dwelling located on such Owner's Lot, and all structures located on such Owner's Lot, including, but not limited to, exterior painting, repairs, mowing, edging, weeding, trimming, and keeping planting beds in good condition and free of weeds.

Such maintenance shall be performed consistent with this Declaration and the Community-Wide Standard established pursuant hereto. Each Owner shall perform the Owner's responsibility hereunder in such manner so as not to unreasonably disturb other Lot Owners. In performance of such maintenance responsibilities hereunder, the Owner shall comply with all other provisions of this Declaration, including, but not limited to, Article VII of this Declaration. Each Owner shall also have the obligation to promptly report to the Association or its agent any defect or need for repairs, for which the Association is responsible to maintain, repair, and/or replace.

10.3. <u>Failure to Maintain</u>. If the Board determines that any Owner has failed or refused to discharge properly the Owner's obligation with regard to the maintenance as provided in this Article, then, except in the case of an emergency as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, the Association shall give the Owner written notice of the Owner's failure or refusal and of the Association's right to provide necessary maintenance, repair, or replacement at the Owner's cost and expense.

The notice shall set forth with reasonable particularity the maintenance, repair, or replacement deemed necessary by the Board. Unless the Board determines that an emergency exists, the Owner shall have ten (10) days within which to complete the maintenance or repair, or if the maintenance or repair is not capable of completion within such time period, to commence replacement or repair within ten (10) days and diligently pursue completion of such repair or replacement. If the Board determines that: (i) an emergency exists or (ii) that an Owner has not complied with the demand given by the Association as herein provided, then the Association may provide any such maintenance, repair, or replacement at the Owner's sole cost and expense, and such costs shall be an assessment and lien against the Owner and the Lot.

If, during the course of performing such maintenance, the Association discovers that maintenance, repair, or replacement is required of an item which is the Owner's responsibility, and such maintenance, repair, or replacement must be performed for the Association to properly

complete its maintenance project, then the Association may perform such work on behalf of the Owner and at the Owner's expense without prior notice to the Owner.

In the event the Board exercises such self-help as provided herein, and in the event further self-help based upon the same or a substantially similar violation is deemed necessary by the Board within the following six (6) months, the Board may exercise such self-help without further notice to the Owner, and all costs shall be an assessment and lien against the Owner and the Lot.

The Board may alternatively enforce this Article through monetary fines against the Owner or Occupant of the Lot, and each day the maintenance, repair, or replacement is not completed shall constitute a separate violation for which fines may be assessed on a daily basis.

10.4. <u>Maintenance Standards and Interpretation</u>. The Board of Directors, in its discretion, may determine schedules of maintenance and repair for the Common Property and any other property within the Community which the Association is responsible to maintain hereunder, and may do so based on the availability of funds for performance of such projects. The Board shall attempt to determine and prioritize schedules based on its opinion of severity of damage and need for corrective work or maintenance. Maintenance and repairs which are part of the Association's responsibility need not be made upon Owner request if, in the Board's discretion, an emergency condition does not exist and such maintenance or repair is included or is to be included within the Board's schedule of maintenance or repairs.

The maintenance standards and the enforcement thereof and the interpretation of maintenance obligations under this Declaration may vary from one term of the Board to another. These variances shall not constitute a waiver by the Board of the right to adopt and enforce maintenance standards under this Article. No decision or interpretation by the Board shall constitute a binding precedent with respect to subsequent decisions or interpretations of the Board.

10.5. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. THE ASSOCIATION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURY OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY CAUSED BY THE ELEMENTS OR BY THE OWNER OF ANY LOT, OR ANY OTHER PERSON, OR RESULTING FROM ANY UTILITY, RAIN, SNOW OR ICE WHICH MAY LEAK OR FLOW FROM ANY PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY OR FROM ANY PIPE, DRAIN, CONDUIT, APPLIANCE OR EQUIPMENT. THE ASSOCIATION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO THE OWNER OF ANY LOT OR SUCH OWNER'S OCCUPANT, GUEST, OR FAMILY, FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE, BY THEFT OR OTHERWISE, OF ANY PROPERTY WHICH MAY BE STORED IN OR UPON ANY OF PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY. THE ASSOCIATION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO ANY OWNER, OR ANY OWNER'S OCCUPANT, GUEST OR FAMILY FOR ANY

DAMAGE OR INJURY CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE ASSOCIATION'S FAILURE TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS ARTICLE WHERE SUCH DAMAGE OR INJURY IS NOT A FORESEEABLE, NATURAL RESULT OF THE ASSOCIATION'S FAILURE TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. NO DIMINUTION OR ABATEMENT OF ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE CLAIMED OR ALLOWED BY REASON OF ANY ALLEGED FAILURE OF THE ASSOCIATION TO TAKE SOME ACTION OR PERFORM SOME FUNCTION REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN OR PERFORMED BY THE ASSOCIATION UNDER THIS DECLARATION, OR FOR INCONVENIENCE OR DISCOMFORT ARISING FROM THE MAKING OF REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS WHICH ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ASSOCIATION, OR FROM ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE ASSOCIATION TO COMPLY WITH ANY LAW, ORDINANCE, OR WITH ANY ORDER OR DIRECTIVE OF ANY MUNICIPAL OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY.

ARTICLE XI. EASEMENTS

- 11.1. <u>Easements for Use and Enjoyment</u>. Every Owner of a Lot shall have a right and easement of ingress and egress, use and enjoyment in and to the Common Property, which shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to the Owner's Lot, subject to the following provisions:
- (a) the right of the Association, acting through the Board, to make and to enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the use of the Common Property and the Lots;
- (b) the terms and conditions of this Declaration, the Bylaws, and the rules and regulations of the Association;
- (c) the right of the Association to suspend the right of an Owner to use the Common Property, for any period during which any assessment against the Owner or Owner's Lot which is provided for herein remains unpaid and for a reasonable period of time for an infraction of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations, and to suspend vehicular access privileges;
- (d) the right of the Association to borrow money as may be set forth in this Declaration and the Bylaws; provided, however, the lien and encumbrance of any such mortgage given by the Association against the Common Property shall be subject and subordinate to any rights, interests, options, easements, and privileges herein reserved or established for any Lot or Lot Owner;

- (e) the right of the Association to grant permits, licenses, or easements across the Common Property; provided, however, the Association shall not be permitted to grant any permits, licenses, utility easements, and/or other easements of any kind to any person or entity, including, but not limited to, any private, public, or quasi-public person or entity, for the purpose, in whole or in part, of a treated sewage water discharge line or a sewer treatment plant; and
- (f) the right of the Board of Directors to convey all or a portion of the Common Property to any Person upon the written approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the total vote of the Association membership; provided, however, such approval shall not be required for the Board to convey Common Property pursuant to Article III, Section 3.7 of this Declaration.

Any Lot Owner may delegate the Owner's right of use and enjoyment in and to the Common Property and facilities located thereon to the members of the Owner's family, or to the Owner's tenants and guests, and shall be deemed to have made a delegation of all such rights to the Occupants if the Owner's Lot is leased; provided, however, the Owner shall retain such rights necessary for ingress and egress to and from the Owner's Lot and Dwelling.

- 11.2. Easements for Encroachment and Overhang. There shall be reciprocal appurtenant casements for encroachment and overhang as between each Lot and such portion or portions of the Common Property adjacent thereto or as between adjacent Lots due to trees or the unintentional placement or settling or shifting of the improvements constructed, reconstructed, or altered thereon (in accordance with the terms of this Declaration) to a distance of not more than three (3) feet, as measured from any point on the common boundary between each Lot and the adjacent portion of the Common Property or as between adjacent Lots, as the case may be, along a line perpendicular to such boundary at such point.
- 11.3. Easements for Utilities. There is hereby reserved to the Declarant and the Association blanket easements upon, across, above and under all property within the Community for access, ingress, egress, installation, repairing, replacing, and maintaining all utilities serving the Community or any portion thereof, including, but not limited to, gas, water, telephone and electricity, as well as storm drainage and any other service such as, but not limited to, cable television system, internet, or security system; provided, however, there shall be no easement for a treated sewage water discharge line or a sewer treatment plant. It shall be expressly permissible for the Declarant or the Association to install, repair, replace, and maintain or to authorize the installation, repairing, replacing, and maintaining of such wires, conduits, cables and other equipment related to the providing of any such utility or service. Should any party furnishing any such utility or service request a specific license or easement by separate recordable document, the Declarant or the Board on behalf of the Association shall have the right to grant such easement; provided, however, the Board on behalf of the Association shall not be permitted to grant any permits, licenses, utility easements, and/or other easements of any kind to any person or entity, including, but not limited to, any private, public, or quasi-public person or entity, for the purpose, in whole or in part, of a treated sewage water discharge line or a sewer treatment plant. Nothing

contained in this Section shall require or obligate the Declarant or the Association to maintain such easement areas, or any facilities or improvements located therein or thereon.

- 11.4. Prohibition of Easements for Treated Sewage Water Discharge. No Person, including, but not limited to the Association, the directors, officers, and agents of the Association, the Owners, Occupants, and the agents, licensees, invitees, assignees, and successors of the Owners or Occupants, shall grant any permits, licenses, utility casements, and/or other easements of any kind to any person or entity, including, but not limited to, any private, public, or quasipublic person or entity, for the purpose, in whole or in part, of a treated sewage water discharge line or a sewer treatment plant. Any purported granting of such permit, license, utility easement, and/or other easement shall be *void ab initio*. The Declarant, the Association, the Owners, and any owner of property adjacent to the Community shall have the right to enforce the terms of this Section, including, but not limited to, by a proceeding at law or in equity.
- and Dwelling for emergency, security, safety, and for other purposes reasonably necessary for the proper maintenance and operation of the Community, which right may be exercised by the Association's Board of Directors, officers, agents, employees, managers, and all police officers, firemen, ambulance personnel, and similar emergency personnel in the performance of their respective duties. Except in an emergency situation, entry shall be only during reasonable hours and after notice to the Owner or Occupant; provided, however, no notice to the Owner or Occupant shall be required for the Association to perform its maintenance obligations as set forth in this Declaration. This right of entry shall include the right of the Association to enter a Lot to cure any violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations of the Association and any condition which may increase the possibility of a fire or other hazard in the event that an Owner fails or refuses to cure the condition upon request by the Board. Nothing contained in this Section shall require the Association to enter onto any Lot or Dwelling for emergency, security, safety, or for other purposes.
- 11.6. Easement for Construction and Sales. Until sixty (60) days following the date on which one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots shown on the final recorded plat or plats for the Community have been issued a certificate of occupancy and have been conveyed to any Person not constituting the Declarant or a Builder for residential use, and so long as Declarant has the right to unilaterally annex additional property to this Declaration, the Declarant reserves an easement across the Community for Declarant to maintain and carry on development activities upon such portion of the Community as Declarant may reasonably deem necessary. This easement shall include an easement for such facilities and activities which in the sole opinion of Declarant may be required, convenient, or incidental to the development, construction, and sales activities related to the property in or near the Community. This easement shall include, without limitation, the following:

- (a) The right of access, ingress and egress for vehicular and pedestrian traffic and construction activities over, under, on or in any portion of the Community as well as upon any Lot in the Community;
- (b) The right to tie into any portion of the Community with driveways, parking areas, roads, and walkways;
- (c) The right to tie into or otherwise connect and use (without a tap-on or other fee for doing so), replace, relocate, maintain, and repair any device which provides utility or similar services;
- (d) The right to place directional or marketing signs on any portion of the Community, including upon any Lot or the Common Property;
- (e) The right to alter drainage and water flow across any property in the Community, including the Lots; and
- (f) The right to construct and operate business offices, signs, construction trailers, model homes, and sales offices incidental to its construction, development and sales activities.

The Declarant shall not be required to obtain the approval or consent of the Association, the Board, the ACC, or any director, officer, or member of same, to exercise any right granted to it pursuant to this Section. Further, Declarant shall have the unilateral right, but not the obligation, to record a separate document or record and/or amend any plat for the Community reflecting the establishment of any of the above easements.

- 11.7. Easement for Entrance Sign and Landscaping. The Association shall have an easement over any portion of a Lot on which any entrance feature, including, but not limited to, the Community sign, monument, irrigation, fencing and landscaping, are located. Such entrance features shall remain the personal property of the Association. The Association shall be solely liable for the maintenance, repair and/or replacement of the entrance features, fencing, landscaping, and annual flowers. The Association shall additionally have an easement for the installation and maintenance of utility and water lines across the Lot to the entrance features.
- 11.8. Easement for Private Drive. Each Owner, subject to the terms of this Declaration, the Bylaws, and the rules and regulations of the Association, shall have a perpetual, non-exclusive right-of-way easement for vehicular and pedestrian access, ingress and egress over and across the Private Drive within the Community. The right-of-way easement herein granted shall permit joint usage of such easement by (a) the Owners and Occupants, (b) the legal representatives, successors and assigns of the Owners and Occupants, and (c) invitees and licensees of the Owners and Occupants. The Declarant and the Association shall have a perpetual, non-exclusive right and easement upon, over and across the Private Drive and such other portions of the Community for

the installation, maintenance, and use of such Private Drive and related activities and improvements.

11.9. <u>Drainage Easement</u>. Declarant shall have an easement across the Community for the purpose of altering drainage and water flow across any property in the Community, including the Lots. This right shall include altering swales, installing drains, drainage ditches, pipes, inlets, and altering, channeling, or piping water flow. Rights exercised pursuant to this easement shall be exercised with a minimum interference to the quiet enjoyment of affected properties. Except as may be specifically set forth in this Declaration, the Declarant shall not have any obligation to maintain such drainage easements or any obligation to alter swales, install drains, drainage ditches, pipes, inlets, or alter, channel, or pipe water flow.

ARTICLE XII. SALE OF LOTS

- 12.1. Grantor's Obligation for Notice. A Lot Owner intending to make a transfer or sale of a Lot or any interest in a Lot shall give the Board written notice of such intention within seven (7) days after execution of the transfer or sales documents. The Owner shall furnish the Board, as part of the notice, the name and address of the intended grantee and such other information as the Board may reasonably require. This Article shall not be construed to create a right of first refusal in the Association or in any third party.
- 12.2. <u>Grantee's Obligation for Notice</u>. Within seven (7) days after receiving title to a Lot, the grantee of the Lot shall give the Board written notice of such ownership of the Lot. Upon failure of an Owner to give the required notice within the seven (7) day period provided herein, the Board may levy a fine against the Lot and Owner thereof, and assess the Owner for all costs incurred by the Association in determining the Owner's identity.

ARTICLE XIII. INSURANCE

- 13.1. <u>Hazard Insurance on Common Property</u>. The Association's Board or its duly authorized agent shall have the authority to and shall obtain insurance for all insurable improvements on the Common Property and the Private Drive. The insurance shall include fire and extended coverage, including coverage for vandalism and malicious mischief, and shall be in an amount sufficient to cover the full replacement cost of any repair or reconstruction in the event of damage or destruction from any such hazard. Alternatively, the Board may purchase "all-risk" coverage in like amounts.
- 13.2. <u>Liability Insurance and Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance</u>. The Board shall obtain a public liability policy applicable to the Common Property and the Private Drive covering the Association and its members for all damage or injury caused by the negligence of the Association or any of its members or agents in their capacities as such, and, if reasonably available,

directors' and officers' liability insurance. The public liability policy shall have a combined single limit of at least one million (\$1,000,000.00) dollars.

- 13.3. <u>Premiums and Deductible on Association Policies</u>. Premiums for all insurance obtained by the Association shall be a common expense of the Association. The policies may contain a reasonable deductible, and the amount thereof shall not be subtracted from the face amount of the policy in determining whether the insurance at least equals the full replacement cost.
- 13.4. <u>Policy Terms</u>. All such insurance coverage obtained by the Board shall be written in the name of the Association. Such insurance shall be governed by the following provisions:
- (a) All policies shall be written with a company licensed to do business in Georgia.
- (b) All policies on the Common Property shall be for the benefit of the Association and its members.
- (c) Exclusive authority to adjust losses under policies obtained by the Association shall be vested in the Board; provided, however, no Mortgagee having an interest in such losses may be prohibited from participating in the settlement negotiations, if any, related thereto.
- (d) In no event shall the insurance coverage obtained and maintained by the Board hereunder be brought into contribution with insurance purchased by individual Owners, occupants, or their Mortgagees, and the insurance carried by the Association shall be primary.
- (c) All casualty insurance policies shall have an inflation guard endorsement and an agreed amount endorsement if these are reasonably available and all insurance policies should be reviewed annually by one or more qualified persons.
- (f) The Board shall use reasonable efforts to secure insurance policies that will provide for the following:
- (1) a waiver of subrogation by the insurer as to any claims against the Board, the Association's manager, if any, the Owners and their respective tenants, servants, agents, and guests;
- (2) a waiver by the insurer of its rights to repair and reconstruct instead of paying cash;
- (3) a provision that no policy may be canceled, invalidated, suspended or subjected to nonrenewal on account of any one or more individual Owners, and a provision that no policy may be canceled, invalidated, suspended, or subjected to nonrenewal due to any defect

or conduct of any director, officer, or agent of the Association or its duly authorized manager without prior demand in writing delivered to the Association to cure the defect or to cease the conduct and the allowance of a reasonable time for the required cure to be performed;

- (4) that any "other insurance" clause in any policy exclude individual Owners' policies from consideration; and
- (5) that no policy may be canceled or substantially modified or subjected to nonrenewal without at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Association.
- 13.5. <u>Individual Lot Owner Insurance</u>. Each Owner shall carry blanket all-risk casualty insurance, if reasonably available, or if not reasonably available, fire and extended coverage, on the Owner's Lot, and all structures constructed thereon meeting the same requirements as set forth in this Article for insurance on the Common Property obtained by the Association. Upon request by the Board, the Owner shall furnish a copy of such insurance policy or policies to the Association. In the event that any Owner fails to obtain insurance or fails to furnish proof of a current insurance policy in effect, the Association may purchase such insurance on behalf of the Owner and assess the cost thereof to the Owner. The Association may in addition, or in the alternative, impose a monetary fine to enforce this provision. Nothing contained in this Section shall require the Association to purchase insurance on behalf of the Owner.

Each Owner further covenants and agrees that, in the event of damage and destruction of structures on his or her Lot, the Owner shall proceed promptly to repair or to reconstruct the damaged structure in a manner consistent with the original construction or such other plans and specifications as are approved in accordance with this Declaration. The Owner shall pay any costs of repair or reconstruction which are not covered by insurance proceeds.

ARTICLE XIV. REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION

- 14.1. Common Property and Private Drive. In the event of damage to or destruction of all or any part of the Common Property or Private Drive insured by the Association as a result of fire or other casualty, unless eighty percent (80%) of the Lot Owners vote not to proceed with the reconstruction and repair of the all or any portion of the Common Property or Private Drive, the Board or its duly authorized agent shall arrange for and supervise the prompt repair and restoration of the damaged part of the Common Property or Private Drive.
- 14.2. <u>Cost Estimates</u>. As soon as reasonably practical after a fire or other casualty causing damage to the Common Property or Private Drive insured by the Association, the Board shall obtain reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repairing and restoring the structures (including any damaged Lot) to substantially the condition which existed before such casualty, allowing for any changes or improvements necessitated by changes in applicable building codes. Such costs may also include professional fees and premiums for such bonds as the Board determines to be necessary.

14.3. Source and Allocation of Proceeds. If the proceeds of insurance are not sufficient to defray the estimated costs of reconstruction and repair, as determined by the Board, or if at any time during the reconstruction and repair or upon completion of reconstruction and repair the funds for the payment of the costs thereof are insufficient, a special assessment shall be made against all of the Lot Owners without the necessity of a vote of the members or compliance with Article VI, Section 6.8 above. If, after repair and reconstruction is completed, there is a surplus of funds, such funds shall be common funds of the Association to be used as directed by the Board.

ARTICLE XV. MORTGAGEE'S RIGHTS

- 15.1. <u>Foreclosure</u>. Where the Mortgagee holding a first Mortgage of record or other purchaser of a Lot obtains title pursuant to judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure of the first Mortgage, it shall not be liable for assessments or charges by the Association chargeable to such Lot which became due prior to such acquisition of title. Such acquirer shall be responsible for all charges accruing subsequent to the passage of title.
- 15.2. <u>Eligible Mortgage Holder</u>. A Mortgage Holder shall become an Eligible Mortgage Holder if the Mortgage Holder provides to the Association in writing its name, address, and phone number, as well as the address of the Lot and name of the Lot Owner to which it holds a Mortgagelder. Upon becoming an Eligible Mortgage Holder, an Eligible Mortgage Holder shall be entitled to timely written notice of the following:
- (a) any delinquency in the payment of assessments or charges owed by an Owner of a Lot subject to a first Mortgage held by such Eligible Mortgage Holder which remains unsatisfied for a period of sixty (60) days, and any default in the performance by an individual Owner of any other obligation under this Declaration which is not cured within sixty (60) days; or
- (b) any lapse, cancellation, or material modification of any insurance policy maintained by the Association.
- 15.3. <u>Financial Statement</u>. Any holder of a first Mortgage shall be entitled, upon written request, to receive within a reasonable time after request, a copy of the financial statement of the Association for the immediately preceding fiscal year, free of charge to the Mortgagee so requesting.
- 15.4. <u>Non-Impairment</u>. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained, the provisions of this Declaration governing sales and leases shall not apply to impair the right of any first Mortgagee to: (i) foreclose or take title to a Lot pursuant to remedies contained in its Mortgage; (ii) take a deed or assignment in lieu of foreclosure; or (iii) sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of a Lot acquired by the Mortgagee.

15.5. <u>Notice to Association</u>. Upon request, each Owner shall be obligated to furnish to the Association the name and address of the holder of any Mortgage encumbering such Owner's Lot.

ARTICLE XVI. AMENDMENTS

- 16.1. General. Subject to Section 16.2 of this Article, this Declaration may be amended by the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination of affirmative vote and written consent, of members of the Association representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of the total eligible votes in the Association. Notice of a meeting, if any, at which a proposed amendment will be considered, shall state the fact of consideration and the subject matter of the proposed amendment. No amendment shall be effective until certified by the President and Secretary of the Association and filed in Jackson County, Georgia land records.
- 16.2. Approval of Declarant. Until sixty (60) days following the date on which one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots shown on the final recorded plat or plats for the Community have been issued a certificate of occupancy and have been conveyed to any Person not constituting the Declarant or a Builder for residential use, any amendment to the Declaration or Bylaws must be approved in writing by the Declarant prior to becoming effective; and during such time, Declarant shall have the unilateral right to amend the Declaration for any purpose from time to time without the approval of the Association members.
- 16.3. <u>Georgia Property Owners' Association Act</u>. The majority of the Board of Directors, without the approval of the Association members, may record an amendment to submit the Declaration to the Georgia Property Owners' Association Act, O.C.G.A. § 44-3-220, <u>et seq.</u>; provided, however, such amendment must be approved by the Declarant, if the Declarant or any Builder owns any Lot subject to this Declaration.
- 16.4. <u>Limitation Period</u>. Any action to challenge the validity of this Declaration or an amendment adopted under this Article must be brought within one (1) year of the recording of same in the Jackson County, Georgia land records. No action to challenge this Declaration or any such amendment may be brought after such time.

ARTICLE XVII, GENERAL PROVISIONS

17.1. Enforcement. In addition to any other enforcement right set forth within the Declaration or Bylaws, the Association, acting through the Board of Directors, shall have the right to enforce, in its sole discretion, any violation of the Declaration, Bylaws or rules and regulations of the Association by a proceeding at law or in equity, or as otherwise provided herein. Failure of the Declarant or the Board of Directors to exercise their authority to take enforcement action authorized by the Declaration, Bylaws or rules and regulations of the Association shall not be grounds for any action against the Declarant, the Association, or the Board of Directors, or any of

the directors, officers, employees, committee members, or agents of the foregoing. Owners may enforce the Declaration against other Owners by a proceeding at law or in equity.

- (a) Fines and Suspensions of Use. The Board shall have the power to impose reasonable fines, which shall constitute a lien upon the Owner's Lot, for any violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, or any Association rules and regulations. The Board shall further have the power to suspend the use of the Common Property for any violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, or any Association rules and regulations. If any Occupant violates the Declaration, Bylaws or Association rules and regulations and a fine is imposed, the fine may be imposed against the Owner and/or Occupant. The Board may establish and promulgate a fining schedule. The Board shall not impose a fine or suspend the right to use the Common Property, unless and until the Board has sent or delivered written notice to the Owner or Occupant as provided herein; provided, however, an Owner's right to use the Common Property shall automatically be suspended without notice during any period in which an Owner is more than thirty (30) days delinquent on any assessment or charge, and the Owner shall be ineligible to use the Common Property until the Owner's account balance has been paid in full.
- Association rule or regulation is violated, the Board shall send the violating Owner or Occupant written notice identifying the violation and fine and/or suspension being imposed and advising the Owner or Occupant of the right to request a hearing before the Board to contest the violation or the fine and/or suspension or to request reconsideration of the fine and/or suspension. Fines and suspensions may be effective or commence upon the sending of such notice or such later date specified in such notice, notwithstanding the Owner or Occupant's right to request a hearing before the Board to challenge the fine and/or suspension. In the event of a continuing violation, each day the violation continues or occurs again constitutes a separate offense, and fines may be imposed on a per diem basis without further notice to the Owner or Occupant. In the event an Owner or Occupant violates the same provision of the Declaration or Bylaws or any Association rule and regulation within six (6) months from the date of the notice, the Board may impose the fines and/or other sanction provided in the notice without further notice to the Owner or Occupant.
- (ii) <u>Hearing</u>. If a written request for a hearing is received from the Owner or Occupant within ten (10) days of the date of the violation notice provided above, then the Board shall schedule and hold in executive session a hearing affording the Owner or Occupant a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The minutes of the meeting shall contain a written statement of the results of the hearing. The Board may establish rules of conduct for such hearing, which may include limits on time and on the number of participants who may be present at one time. Failure to request a timely hearing as provided herein shall result in loss of the right to challenge and request reconsideration of the fines or suspension. The Board of Directors may, but shall not be required to, suspend the fines and/or suspension until the date of the hearing.

- (b) <u>Suspension of Voting</u>. A member's right to vote shall automatically be suspended during any period in which a member is more than thirty (30) days delinquent on any assessment or charge. The Association shall not be required to provide any notice to such member that the member's voting rights have been automatically suspended. The Board shall also have the right to suspend a member's right to vote for a reasonable period of time for any violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations.
- (c) Abatement and Self-Help. The Board or its designee may enter upon a Lot to exercise self-help in order to remove or abate any violation thereon of the Declaration; provided, however, the Board shall first provide the Owner of the Lot ten (10) days notice of the Board's intention to enter the Owner's Lot and provide the Owner with an opportunity to remove or abate the violation, provided further, such notice shall not be required if the Board determines that an emergency exists. All costs of self-help or of otherwise enforcing the Declaration, Bylaws or Association rules, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, shall be assessed against the Owner, Occupant and/or Lot subject to the violation.
- (d) <u>Notice of Violation</u>. The Association shall have the authority to record in the Jackson County, Georgia land records a notice of violation identifying an uncured violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations regarding a Lot.
- (e) <u>Enforcement Costs</u>. The Owner or Occupant responsible for a violation shall be liable for all costs incurred in enforcement, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, whether or not a legal proceeding in law or equity is filed in connection with the violation. In the event an Occupant is responsible for the violation, the Owner shall also be liable for all costs incurred in enforcement against such Occupant, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, whether or not a legal proceeding in law or equity is filed in connection with the violation. All such costs shall be considered a specific assessment and shall become a lien against the Owner's Lot.
- (f) <u>Waiver</u>. The failure of the Board to enforce any provision of the Declaration, Bylaws, or any rule or regulation shall not be deemed a waiver of the right of the Board to do so thereafter. Neither the Declarant, the Association, its Board of Directors, any duly created committee, any member of any of the foregoing, the Association's officers, nor agents shall have any liability of any kind as a result of any failure to enforce any provision contained in this Declaration, the Bylaws, or the rules and regulations of the Association. Each Owner acknowledges and agrees that the Association has the discretion to pursue covenant violations based on the gravity of the violation, the strength of the Association's legal and factual position, and the Association's financial position. The Association's decision regarding any specific covenant violation shall not affect the rights of other Owners with respect to that violation.
- 17.2. <u>Duration</u>. The covenants, conditions, restrictions, and easements within this Declaration shall run with and bind the property subject to this Declaration perpetually or as otherwise provided by Georgia law.

17.3. SECURITY. THE ASSOCIATION MAY, BUT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO, FROM TIME TO TIME, PROVIDE MEASURES OR TAKE ACTIONS WHICH DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IMPROVE SAFETY AT THE COMMUNITY; HOWEVER, EACH OWNER AND OCCUPANT, FOR HIMSELF OR HERSELF AND HIS OR HER TENANTS, GUESTS, LICENSEES, INVITEES. ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT AND ASSOCIATION IS NOT A PROVIDER OF SECURITY AND SHALL HAVE NO DUTY TO PROVIDE SECURITY AT THE COMMUNITY. IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH OWNER TO PROTECT HIS OR HER PERSON AND PROPERTY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SUCH SECURITY SHALL LIE SOLELY WITH EACH LOT OWNER.

THE ASSOCIATION SHALL NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE BY REASON OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY OR INEFFECTIVENESS OF SAFETY MEASURES UNDERTAKEN.

- 17.4. <u>Dispute Resolution</u>. Any Lot Owner or Occupant must give written notice to the Declarant, Builder, or Board requesting a hearing with the Declarant, Builder, or Board and attend such hearing to discuss amicable resolution of any dispute against the Declarant, Builder, or Association, respectively, before that Owner or Occupant files any lawsuit against the Declarant, Builder, the Association, the Board, or any officer or director, or any agent of same. The Owner or Occupant shall, in such notice and at the hearing, make a good faith effort to explain the grievance and resolve the dispute in an amicable fashion, and shall give the Declarant, Builder, or Association a reasonable opportunity to address the Owner's or Occupant's grievance before filing suit. Upon receiving a request for a hearing, the Declarant, Builder, or the Association shall give notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing to the Person requesting the hearing. The Declarant, Builder, or Association shall schedule the hearing for a date not less than seven (7) nor more than twenty-one (21) days from the date of receipt of the notice of hearing from the Person requesting the hearing. Alternatively, the Declarant, Builder, or Board may notify the Owner or Occupant that it is waiving the requirement of the Owner or Occupant to request and attend the hearing with the Declarant, Builder, or the Board.
- 17.5. <u>No Discrimination</u>. No action shall be taken by the Association or the Board of Directors which would discriminate against any person on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or handicap.

- 17.6. <u>Indemnification</u>. The Association shall indemnify every officer and director against any and all expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, imposed upon or reasonably incurred by any officer or director in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any suit or proceeding, if approved by the then Board of Directors) to which such officer or director may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer or director. The officers and directors shall not be liable for any mistake of judgment, negligent or otherwise, except for their own individual willful misfeasance, malfeasance, misconduct, or bad faith. The officers and directors shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made by them, in good faith, on behalf of the Association, and the Association shall indemnify and forever hold each such officer and director free and harmless against any and all liability to others on account of any such contract or commitment. Any right to indemnification provided for herein shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any officer or director, or former officer or director, may be entitled. The Association shall maintain adequate general liability and officers' and directors' liability insurance to fund this obligation, if such coverage is reasonably available.
- 17.7. Eminent Domain. If all or any part of the Common Property shall be taken or conveyed in lieu of or under threat of condemnation by any authority having power of condemnation or eminent domain, each Owner shall be entitled to notice thereof. If the taking involves a portion of the Common Property on which improvements have been constructed, then, unless within sixty (60) days after such taking at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the Owners shall otherwise agree, the Association shall restore or replace such improvements so taken on the remaining Common Property to the extent land is available therefor.
- 17.8. <u>Implied Rights</u>. The Association may exercise any right or privilege given to it expressly by this Declaration, the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, and every other right or privilege reasonably to be implied from the existence of any right or privilege given to it therein or reasonably necessary to effectuate any such right or privilege.
- 17.9. Severability. Invalidation of any one of these covenants or restrictions by judgment or court order or otherwise shall in no way affect the application of such provision to other circumstances or affect any other provision, which shall remain in full force and effect.
- 17.10. Conflicts. The duties, powers, and obligations of the Association, including the members, directors, and officers, shall be those set forth in the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, the Declaration, the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, and the rules and regulations of the Association. If there are conflicts or inconsistencies between such, then the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, the Declaration, the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, and the rules and regulations of the Association, in that order, shall prevail; and each Owner of a Lot, by acceptance of a deed or other conveyance therefor, covenants to vote in favor of such amendments as will remove such conflicts or inconsistencies.

17.11. Preparer. This Declaration was prepared by Brendan R. Hunter, Lueder, Larkin & Hunter, LLC, 5900 Windward Parkway, Suite 390, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Declarant has executed this Declaration under seal this day of feeting, 2021.

DECLARANT:

RB FARMS, LLC

a Georgia finited liability company

l;

(Seal)

Name

lts:

Witness:

Notary Public

in the presence of:

Signed, sealed and delivered

EXHIBIT "A"

DESCRIPTION OF SUBMITTED PROPERTY

ALL THAT TRACT or parcel of land lying and being in GMD 1747, Jackson County, Georgia as per Plat for Oconee River Preserve recorded on January 4, 2024, in Plat Book 87, Page 113 of the Jackson County, Georgia land records, said plat being incorporated herein by reference.

EXHIBIT "B"

ADDITIONAL PROPERTY

Any real property located within one (1) mile radius from any property included in Exhibit "A" of this Declaration.

EXHIBIT "C"

BYLAWS

OF

OCONEE RIVER PRESERVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.



5900 Windward Parkway, Suite 390 Alpharetta, Georgia 30005 770-685-7000 www.luederlaw.com

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BYLAWS

OF

OCONEE RIVER PRESERVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I. GENERAL

- 1.1. <u>Applicability</u>. These Bylaws provide for the self-government of Oconee River Preserve Community Association, Inc., in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State and the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions, and Easements for Oconee River Preserve (hereafter referred to as the "Declaration"), recorded in the Jackson County, Georgia land records.
- 1.2. <u>Name</u>. The name of the corporation is Oconee River Preserve Community Association, Inc. (hereafter referred to as the "Association").
- 1.3. <u>Definitions</u>. The terms used herein shall have their generally accepted meanings or the meanings specified in Article I of the Declaration.
- 1.4. <u>Membership</u>. Every Owner shall be deemed to have a membership in the Association. This is not intended to include Persons who hold an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation, and the giving of a security interest shall not terminate the Owner's membership. No Owner, whether one or more Persons, shall have more than one (1) membership per Lot owned. In the event of multiple Owners of a Lot, votes and rights of use and enjoyment shall be as provided in the Declaration and in these Bylaws. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot.
- 1.5. <u>Voting</u>. Members shall be entitled to one (1) equal vote for each Lot owned. When more than one (1) Person holds an ownership interest in any Lot, the vote for such Lot shall be exercised as those Owners determine among themselves. In the absence of such advice, the Lot's vote shall be suspended if more than one (1) Person seeks to exercise it. A member's right to vote shall automatically be suspended during any period in which a member is more than thirty (30) days delinquent on any assessment or charge, and the member shall be ineligible to vote on any matter until the member's account balance has been paid in full.
- 1.6. Entity Members. In the event an Owner is a corporation, partnership, trust, or other legal entity not being a natural person or persons, then any natural person who is an officer, director, or other designated agent of such corporation, partner of such partnership, beneficiary, or other designated agent of such trust, or manager of such other legal entity shall be eligible to represent such entity in the affairs of the Association. Such person's relationship with the Association shall terminate automatically upon the termination of such person's relationship with the entity which is the Owner of the Lot.

The membership rights of an Owner which is a corporation, partnership, or other legal entity shall be exercised by the individual designated from time to time by the Owner in a written instrument provided to the Secretary of the Association.

1.7. Purpose. The Association shall have the responsibility of administering the Community, establishing the means and methods of collecting the assessments in accordance with the Declaration, and performing all of the other acts that may be required to be performed by the Association pursuant to the Declaration and Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code. Except as to those matters which the Declaration or the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code specifically require to be performed by the vote of the Association membership, the administration of the foregoing responsibilities shall be performed by the Board of Directors.

1.8. <u>Electronic Communications</u>.

- (a) Records and Signatures. Whenever the Declaration or these Bylaws require that a document, record or instrument be written or in writing, the requirement is deemed satisfied by an electronic record pursuant to the Georgia Uniform Electronic Transactions Act. Whenever the Declaration or these Bylaws require a signature on a document, record or instrument, an electronic signature, in accordance with the Georgia Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, satisfies that requirement.
- (b) <u>Verification and Liability for Falsification</u>. The Board of Directors may require reasonable verification of any electronic signature, document, record, or instrument. Absent or pending verification, the Board of Directors may refuse to accept any electronic signature or electronic record that, in the Board's sole discretion, is not authentic. Neither the Board of Directors nor the Association shall be liable to any Owner or any other Person for accepting or acting in reliance upon an electronic signature or electronic record that the Board of Directors reasonably believes to be authentic, or rejecting any such item which the Board of Directors reasonably believes not to be authentic. Any Owner or Person who negligently, recklessly or intentionally submits any falsified electronic record or unauthorized electronic signature shall fully indemnify the Association for actual damages, reasonable attorneys' fees actually incurred and expenses incurred as a result of such acts.

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

- 2.1. <u>Annual Meetings</u>. The annual meeting of the members shall be held each year with the date, hour, and place to be set by the Board.
- 2.2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called for any purpose at any time by the President or by request of any two (2) or more directors, or upon written petition of at least twenty-five (25%) percent of the total eligible vote of the Association membership. Any such written petition by the members must be submitted to the Association's Secretary. The Secretary shall then verify that the required number of members have joined in the petition and shall submit the petition to the Association's

President. The President shall then promptly call a special meeting for the purpose stated in the petition, and the Secretary shall send notice of the meeting in accordance with these Bylaws. Members petitioning for a special meeting may request the date, time and location of the meeting, but such request shall not be binding upon the Association.

- 2.3. Notice of Meetings. The Secretary shall mail or deliver to each member of the Association a notice of each Association meeting at least twenty-one (21) days prior to each annual meeting and at least ten (10) days prior to each special meeting. All notices shall state the date, time, and location of the annual or special meeting. If any member wishes notice to be given to an address other than the Owner's Lot address, the member shall designate such other address by written notice to the Secretary. The mailing or delivering of a meeting notice as provided in this Section shall constitute proper service of notice.
- 2.4. <u>Telephonic or Virtual Meeting</u>. In the Board's discretion, any meeting of the members may be held by means of remote telephone or electronic communication, including, but not limited to, virtual meeting platforms, video conferencing, the internet, or other similar means, provided all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other or can otherwise communicate with each other. The Board of Directors may adopt rules and procedures governing the conduct of meetings by remote telephone or electronic communication. For in-person meetings of the members, the Board of Directors may, but shall not be required, to allow attendance by remote telephone or electronic communication.
- 2.5. <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. Waiver of notice of a meeting of the members shall be deemed the equivalent of proper notice. Any member may, in writing, waive notice of any Association meeting, either before or after such meeting. Attendance at a meeting by a member, whether in person or represented by proxy, shall be deemed waiver by such member of notice of the date, time and location thereof unless such member specifically objects to lack of proper notice at the time the meeting is called to order. Attendance at a special meeting shall also be deemed waiver of notice of all business transacted at such meeting unless objection to lack of notice is raised before the business, of which proper notice was not given, is put to a vote.
- 2.6. Quorum. The presence, in person or by proxy, of members entitled to cast fifteen percent (15%) of the total eligible vote of the Association shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum is established for a meeting, it shall conclusively be presumed to exist until the meeting is closed and shall not need to be reestablished. Members whose voting rights have been suspended pursuant to the Declaration or these Bylaws shall not be counted as eligible votes toward the quorum requirement.
- 2.7. <u>Adjournment</u>. Any meeting of the Association members may be adjourned from time to time for periods not exceeding ten (10) days by vote of the members holding the majority of the votes represented at such meeting, regardless of whether a quorum is present. Any business which could have been transacted properly at the original session of the meeting with a quorum present may be transacted at a

reconvened session with a quorum present, and no additional notice of such reconvened session shall be required.

- 2.8. Proxy. Any Association member entitled to vote may do so by written proxy duly executed by the member setting forth the meeting at which the proxy is valid. The term "proxy" shall mean the written document in which the member authorizes any other person to attend a membership meeting on behalf of the member and vote the member's vote at the meeting. The written proxy document shall not be required to be in any particular form; but to be valid, the proxy must be signed, dated, and filed with the Secretary prior to the opening of the meeting for which it is to be used. The member giving the proxy shall be the "proxy giver" and the person holding the proxy and authorized to attend on behalf of the proxy giver and vote for the proxy giver shall be the "proxy holder." Proxies may be delivered by either the proxy giver or the proxy holder by personal delivery, U.S. Mail, facsimile transmission, email, or other electronic means to any Board member or the property manager, if any. Proxies may be revoked only by written notice of the proxy giver delivered to the Secretary, except that the presence in person by the proxy giver at a meeting for which the proxy is given shall automatically invalidate the proxy for that meeting. A proxy holder may not appoint a substitute proxy holder unless expressly authorized to do so in the proxy. Proxies shall be counted towards establishment of a quorum.
- 2.9. <u>Action Taken Without a Meeting</u>. In the Board's discretion, any action that may be taken by the Association members at any annual, regular, or special meeting may be taken without a meeting if the Board delivers a written consent form or written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter.
- (a) <u>Ballot</u>. A written ballot shall set forth each proposed action and provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action. Approval by written ballot shall be valid only when (1) the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and (2) the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot.

All solicitations for votes by written ballot shall: (1) indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements; (2) state the percentage of approvals necessary to approve each matter other than election of directors; and (3) specify the time by which a ballot must be received by the Board in order to be counted. A written ballot may not be revoked.

(b) Written Consent. Approval by written consent shall be valid only when the number of written consents received equals or exceeds the requisite majority of the voting power for such action. Executed written consents shall be included in the minutes or filed with the Association's records. If an action of the members is approved by written consent hereunder, the Board shall issue written notice of such approval to all members who did not sign written consents. Membership approval shall be effective ten

- (10) days after written notice is issued; provided, however, if the consent is to an amendment to the Declaration or Bylaws which must be recorded, the effective date shall be no earlier than the date of recording of such amendment.
- 2.10. Order of Business. At all meetings of the Association, Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition) shall govern when not in conflict with the Declaration, these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation, unless the members present at a particular meeting vote to suspend Robert's Rules at that meeting. The failure to comply with the Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition) shall not invalidate any action taken at any meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1. <u>Composition</u>.

The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of three (3) persons; provided, however, during the period of time that Declarant has the right to appoint and remove the directors and officers of the Association pursuant to Section 3.2 of this Article, the Board of Directors shall be composed of one (1) to three (3) persons as determined by the Declarant. Except for directors appointed by the Declarant hereunder, the directors shall be Owners of Lots or the spouse of an Owner, provided, however no Owner and his or her spouse may serve on the Board at the same time, and no co-owners may serve on the Board at the same time.

3.2. Election and Term.

The Declarant shall have the right to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association until the earlier of the following to occur: (a) sixty (60) days following the date on which one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots shown on the final recorded plat or plats for the Community have been issued a certificate of occupancy and have been conveyed to any Person not constituting the Declarant or a Builder for residential use; or (b) the voluntary surrender by Declarant of the authority to appoint and remove the Association's directors and officers pursuant to a recorded document executed by the then current Declarant and filed in the Jackson County, Georgia land records.

Upon the termination of the Declarant's right to appoint and remove directors, all Association members eligible to vote shall be entitled to cast their entire vote for each directorship to be filled. Those natural persons receiving the most votes shall be elected to the number of positions on the Board to be filled. The directorships for which elections are held shall be filled by that number of candidates receiving the most votes. There shall be no cumulative voting. Voting for election of Board members shall be by secret written ballot (unless dispensed by consent at the meeting at which such voting is conducted). All directors shall be elected for one (1) year terms and shall hold office until their successors are elected. The newly elected Board shall meet within ten (10) days following the meeting at which the election occurred for the purpose of appointing officers and any other business that comes before the Board.

- 3.3. <u>Nomination</u>. Nomination for election to the Board shall be made from the floor at the meeting. Nominations also may be made by a nominating committee, if appointed by the Board. The Board may also establish additional procedures for the nomination of directors.
- 3.4. Removal of Directors. At any valid regular or special Association meeting, any one or more directors, except those directors appointed by the Declarant, may be removed with or without cause by a majority of the total eligible vote of the Association members and a successor may then and there be elected to fill the vacancy created. In addition, any director who has had three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regularly scheduled Board meetings or is more than sixty (60) days past due in the payment of any assessment or charge may be removed by the vote of a majority of the other directors. Any director whose removal has been proposed shall be given at least ten (10) days notice of the calling of the meeting to consider his or her removal and shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting.
- 3.5. <u>Vacancies</u>. Vacancies on the Board caused by any reason, except the removal of a director by vote of the membership as provided in Section 3.4 of this Article, shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the remaining directors, even though less than a quorum, at any Board meeting. The successor selected shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the director being replaced.
- 3.6. <u>Compensation</u>. Directors shall not be compensated for services. However, directors may be reimbursed for the expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as directors upon Board approval of such expenses. For purposes hereof, reasonable food and beverages purchased for Board meetings shall not be considered compensation.
- 3.7. <u>Director Conflicts of Interest.</u> Nothing herein shall prohibit a director from entering into a contract and being compensated for services or supplies furnished to the Association in a capacity other than as director, provided the director's interest is disclosed to the Board and the contract is approved by a majority of the directors who are at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present, excluding the director with whom the contract is made. The interested director shall not count for purposes of establishing a quorum of the Board. The interested director shall be entitled to be present at the meeting at which the proposed contract is discussed, but the director must leave the room during the discussion on such matter.
- 3.8. <u>Regular Meetings</u>. Regular Board meetings may be held at such time and place as determined by the Board, but at least once every three (3) months.
- 3.9. <u>Special Meetings</u>. Special Board meetings may be called by the President on three (3) days notice to each director given by mail, in person, by telephone, by facsimile transmission, or by email, which notice shall state the time, date, location, and purpose of the meeting. Special Board meetings shall be called by the President, Vice

President, Secretary, or Treasurer in like manner and on like notice upon the written request of at least two (2) directors.

- 3.10. <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. Any director at any time, in writing, may waive notice of any Board meeting, and such waiver shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. Attendance by a director at any Board meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice by him or her of the time and place of such meeting. If all directors are present at any Board meeting, no notice shall be required and any business may be transacted at such meeting.
- 3.11. Quorum and Conduct of Meetings. The President shall preside over all Board meetings, and the Secretary shall keep a minute book recording therein all resolutions adopted by the Board and a record of all transactions and proceedings occurring at such meetings. The presence of directors entitled to cast a majority of the votes of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. One or more directors who participate in a meeting by means of telephone or electronic communication shall be deemed present and in attendance for all purposes at such meeting, provided all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other.
- 3.12. Open Meetings. All Board meetings shall be open to all Association members, but members other than directors may not participate in any discussion or deliberation unless expressly authorized by the Board. Notwithstanding the above, the Board may adjourn a meeting and reconvene in executive session to discuss and vote upon personnel matters, delinquent assessments, litigation in which the Association is or may become involved, and orders of business of a similar nature. The nature of any and all business to be considered in executive session shall first be announced in open session.
- 3.13. Action Without a Meeting. Any Board action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting may be taken without a meeting if a majority of the directors consent in writing to such action. The written consents must describe the action taken. The written consents shall be filed with the minutes of the Board. The written consent may be by email or other electronic means; a copy of the consents shall be printed and filed with the minutes of the Board.
- 3.14. <u>Powers and Duties</u>. The Board shall manage the affairs of the Association and shall have all the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the Community and may do all such acts and things as are not by the Act, the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws directed to be done and exercised exclusively by the members. In addition to the duties imposed by these Bylaws, the Board shall have the power to and shall be responsible for the following, in the way of explanation, but not limitation:
- (a) preparation and adoption of an annual budget, in which there shall be established the contribution of each Owner to the common expenses;

- (b) making assessments to defray the common expenses, establishing the means and methods of collecting such assessments;
- (c) providing for the operation, care, upkeep, and maintenance of all portions of the Community for which the Association is assigned maintenance responsibility under the Declaration;
- (d) designating, hiring, and dismissing the personnel necessary for the operation of the Association and the maintenance, repair and replacement of all portions of the Community for which the Association is assigned maintenance responsibility under the Declaration, and, where appropriate, providing for the compensation of such personnel and for the purchase of equipment, supplies and material to be used by such personnel in the performance of their duties;
- (e) collecting the assessments, depositing the proceeds thereof in a financial depository or institution which it shall approve, or otherwise investing the proceeds in accordance with any limitations set forth in O.C.G.A. Section 14-3-302, and using the proceeds to administer the Association;
- (f) making and amending rules and regulations for the Common Property and imposing sanctions for violation thereof, including reasonable monetary fines;
- (g) opening of bank or other financial accounts on behalf of the Association and designating the signatories required;
- (h) making or contracting for the making of repairs, additions and improvements to, or alterations of, the Common Property after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, in accordance with the other provisions of the Declaration and these Bylaws;
- (i) enforcing by legal means the provisions of the Declaration, these Bylaws, and the rules and regulations adopted by it, and bringing any proceedings which may be instituted on behalf of or against the Owners concerning the Association;
- (j) obtaining and carrying insurance against casualties and liabilities, as provided in the Declaration, and paying the premium cost thereof;
- (k) paying the costs of all services rendered to the Association or its members and not directly chargeable to specific Owners;
- (1) keeping books with detailed accounts of the receipts and expenditures affecting the Association and its administration, specifying the maintenance and repair expenses and any other expenses incurred; and
- (m) contracting with any Person for the performance of various duties and functions. The Board shall have the power to enter into management agreements. Any

and all functions of the Association shall be fully transferable by the Board, in whole or in part, to any other entity.

- 3.15. <u>Management Agent</u>. The Association may, but shall not be required to, hire a professional management agent or agents, at a compensation established by the Board, to perform such duties and services as the Board of Directors shall authorize.
- 3.16. <u>Borrowing</u>. The Board shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of maintenance, repair, restoration or improvement to the Common Property or for any other purpose; provided, however, if the total amount of such borrowing exceeds or would exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) of outstanding debt at any one time, such borrowing must first be approved by members of the Association holding a majority of the total Association vote; provided further, however, the Board shall be authorized to borrow money from the Declarant as provided in Article VI, Section 6.10 of the Declaration without the approval of the members of the Association.
- 3.17. Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors. The Association shall indemnify every officer and director against any and all expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, imposed upon or reasonably incurred by any officer or director in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any suit or proceeding, if approved by the then Board of Directors) to which such officer or director may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer or director. The officers and directors shall not be liable for any mistake of judgment, negligent or otherwise, except for their own individual willful misfeasance, malfeasance, misconduct, or bad faith. The officers and directors shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made by them, in good faith, on behalf of the Association, and the Association shall indemnify and forever hold each such officer and director free and harmless against any and all liability to others on account of any such contract or commitment. Any right to indemnification provided for herein shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any officer or director, or former officer or director, may be entitled. The Association shall maintain adequate general liability and officers' and directors' liability insurance to fund this obligation, if such coverage is reasonably available.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

4.1. <u>Designation</u>. The principal officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President, Vice President and Secretary must be directors. The Treasurer shall be elected by the Board, but need not be a director. The Board may appoint one or more Assistant Treasurers, Assistant Secretaries, and such other subordinate officers as in its judgment may be necessary. Any assistant or subordinate officers shall not be required to be directors. Except for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and all offices appointed by Declarant, which may be held by the same person, no person may hold more than one (1) office.

- 4.2. Appointment of Officers. The Declarant shall have the right to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association until the earlier of the following to occur: (a) sixty (60) days following the date on which one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots shown on the final recorded plat or plats for the Community have been issued a certificate of occupancy and have been conveyed to any Person not constituting the Declarant or a Builder for residential use; or (b) the voluntary surrender by Declarant of the authority to appoint and remove the Association's directors and officers pursuant to a recorded document executed by the then current Declarant and filed in the Jackson County, Georgia land records. Upon the termination of the Declarant's right to appoint and remove officers, the Association officers shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board and until a successor is elected.
- 4.3. Removal of Officers. During the period that the Declarant has the right to appoint and remove the officers of the Association, any officer may be removed, either with or without cause, and a successor may be appointed by the Declarant. After the termination of the Declarant's right to appoint and remove officers of the Association as provided herein, upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board members at any Board meeting at which a quorum is established, any officer may be removed, either with or without cause, and a successor may be elected.
- 4.4. <u>Vacancies</u>. A vacancy in any office arising because of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise may be filled by the Board for the unexpired portion of the term.
- 4.5. <u>President</u>. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all Association and Board meetings.
- 4.6. <u>Vice President</u>. The Vice President shall act in the President's absence and shall have all powers, duties, and responsibilities provided for the President when so acting.
- 4.7. <u>Secretary</u>. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Association and Board meetings and shall have charge of the Association's books and records.
- 4.8. <u>Treasurer</u>. The Treasurer shall have the responsibility for the Association's funds and securities and shall be responsible for keeping full and accurate financial records and books of account showing all receipts and disbursements, for preparing all required financial statements and tax returns, and for the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects in the name of the Association or the managing agent in such depositories as may from time to time be designated by the Board.
- 4.9. Other Officers. Other offices may be created by the Board, and the Board members which hold such offices shall have such titles and duties as are defined by the Board.

4.10. <u>Agreements, Contracts, Deeds, Leases, Etc.</u> All agreements, contracts, deeds, leases, checks, promissory notes, and other instruments of the Association shall be executed by at least two (2) officers or by such other person or persons as may be designated by Board resolution.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

- 5.1. General. Subject to Section 5.2 of this Article, these Bylaws may be amended by an instrument or instruments signed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of Owners. Notice of a meeting, if any, at which a proposed amendment will be considered shall state the fact of consideration and the subject matter of the proposed amendment. No amendment shall be effective until certified by the President and Secretary of the Association and filed in Jackson County, Georgia land records.
- 5.2. Approval by Declarant. Until sixty (60) days following the date on which one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots shown on the final recorded plat or plats for the Community have been issued a certificate of occupancy and have been conveyed to any Person not constituting the Declarant or a Builder for residential use, any amendment to these Bylaws must be approved in writing by the Declarant prior to becoming effective; and during such time, Declarant shall have the unilateral right to amend these Bylaws from time to time without the approval of the Association members.
- 5.3. Georgia Property Owners' Association Act. The majority of the Board of Directors, without the approval of the Association members, may record an amendment to submit the Declaration and these Bylaws to the Georgia Property Owners' Association Act, O.C.G.A. § 44-3-220, et seq.; provided, however, such amendment must be approved by the Declarant, if the Declarant than owns any Lot subject to the Declaration.
- 5.4. <u>Limitation Period</u>. Any action to challenge the validity of these Bylaws or an amendment adopted under this Article must be brought within one (1) year of the recording of same in the Jackson County, Georgia land records. No action to challenge these Bylaws or any such amendment may be brought after such time.

ARTICLE VI. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1. <u>Committees</u>. The Architectural Control Committee shall be a standing committee of the Association as provided in the Declaration. The Board may establish a nominating committee and any other committee as the Board deems desirable with the powers and duties that the Board shall authorize. Except as otherwise provided herein and in the Declaration, members of any committee shall be appointed by the Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. Any committee member may be removed with or without cause at any time and with or without a successor being named.

6.2. Notices.

- (a) <u>Method of Giving Notice</u>. All notices, demands, bills, statements, or other communications shall be in writing and shall be given:
 - (1) Personal delivery to the addressee;
 - (2) Via United States mail, first class, postage prepaid;
 - (3) Via electronic mail;
 - (4) Via facsimile; or
 - (5) Via any other legal means.
- (b) <u>Addressee</u>. Notice sent by one of the methods described herein shall be deemed to have been duly given:
- (1) If to an Owner, at the address, electronic mail address or facsimile number which the Owner has designated in writing and filed with the Secretary, or if no such address has been designated, at the address of the Owner's Lot;
- (2) If to an Occupant, to the electronic mail address or facsimile number which the Occupant has designated in writing, or if no such address has been designated, at the address of the Lot occupied; or
- (3) If to the Association, the Board or the managing agent, if any, at the postal address, facsimile, or electronic mail address of the principal office of the Association or the managing agent, if any, or at such other address as shall be designated in writing and filed with the Secretary.
- 6.3. <u>Severability</u>. The invalidity of any part of these Bylaws shall not impair or affect in any manner the validity, enforceability, or effect of the balance of these Bylaws or the Declaration.
- 6.4. <u>Captions</u>. The captions herein are inserted only as a matter of convenience and for reference and in no way define, limit, or describe the scope of these Bylaws or the intent of any provision thereof.
- 6.5 <u>Fiscal Year</u>. The fiscal year of the Association may be set by Board resolution or, in the absence thereof, shall be the calendar year.
- 6.6. <u>Financial Review</u>. A financial review of the accounts of the Association shall be performed annually in the manner provided by the Board. However, after having received the Board's financial review at the annual meeting, the members may, by a majority of the Association members present at such meeting, in person or proxy, require that the Association accounts be audited as a common expense by an independent accountant.

- 6.7. <u>Conflicts</u>. The duties and powers of the Association shall be those set forth in the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, the Declaration, these Bylaws, and the Articles of Incorporation, together with those reasonably implied to affect the purposes of the Association. If there are conflicts or inconsistencies between such, then the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code (as may be applicable), the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, in that order, shall prevail, and each Owner of a Lot, by acceptance of a deed or other conveyance therefor, covenants to vote in favor of such amendments as will remove such conflicts or inconsistencies.
- Books and Records. To the extent provided for, and restricted in, 6.8. Section 14-3-1602 of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, as such Code Section may be amended from time to time, all Association members and any institutional holder of a first Mortgage shall be entitled to inspect Association records at a reasonable time and location specified by the Association, upon written request at least five (5) business days before the date on which the member wishes to inspect and copy. The Association may impose a reasonable charge, covering the cost of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Board may limit or preclude member inspection of confidential or privileged documents, including attorney/client privileged communications, executive session meeting minutes, and financial records or accounts of other members. Minutes for any Board or Association meetings do not become effective as an official Association record until approved by the Board or Association membership, as applicable, at a subsequent meeting. All Board members may inspect and copy any book or record of the Association.
- 6.9. <u>Preparer</u>. These Bylaws were prepared by Brendan R. Hunter, Lueder, Larkin & Hunter, LLC, 5900 Windward Parkway, Suite 390, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005.

[SIGNATURES COMMENCE ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

This 22 day of February	
Sworn to and subscribed before me this Charles of Planta 20 Charles of Planta 20 Charles of Planta 20 Charles of Charles	OCONEE RIVER PRESERVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. Signature of President Print Name: Secretary Print Name: John Graffin