

**DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND  
RESTRICTIONS  
FOR  
THE WOODLANDS AT CHÂTEAU ÉLAN**

NOTICE: This copy of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for The Woodlands at Château Élan (“Declaration”) is an unrecorded version of the document. The recorded Declaration in the Gwinnett and Barrow County, Georgia, Records represents the legally binding covenants for The Woodlands at Château Élan.

Upon recording, please return to:

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# **DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE WOODLANDS AT CHÂTEAU ÉLAN**

THIS DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS (the “Declaration”) is made as of the date set forth on the signature page hereof by Fountainhead Development Corp., Inc., a Georgia corporation (the “Declarant”).

Declarant is the owner of the real property described on Exhibit “A,” which is attached and incorporated by reference. This Declaration imposes upon the Properties (as defined in Article 1 below) mutually beneficial restrictions under a general plan of improvement for the benefit of the owners of each portion of the Properties and establishes a flexible and reasonable procedure for the overall development, administration, maintenance and preservation of the Properties. In furtherance of such plan, this Declaration provides for the creation of Woodlands at Château Élan Owners Association, Inc. to own, operate and maintain Common Areas and to administer and enforce the provisions of this Declaration, the By-Laws, and the Design Standards (as these terms are defined below).

Declarant hereby declares that all of the property described on Exhibit “A” and any Additional Property subjected to this Declaration by Supplemental Declaration (as defined in Article 1 below) shall be held, sold, used and conveyed subject to the following easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, 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 portion of the Properties, their heirs, successors, successors-in-title, and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each owner of any portion of the Properties.

## **ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS**

The terms in this Declaration and the exhibits to this Declaration shall generally be given their natural, commonly accepted definitions except as otherwise specified. Capitalized terms shall be defined as set forth below.

1.1. “Additional Property”: All of that certain real property which is more particularly described on Exhibit “B”, which is attached and incorporated herein by this reference, and which real property is subject to annexation to the terms of this Declaration in accordance with Article 7.

1.2. “Area of Common Responsibility”: The Common Area, together with those areas, if any, for which the Association has or assumes responsibility pursuant to the terms of this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration or other applicable covenant, contract, or agreement.

1.3. “Articles of Incorporation” or “Articles”: The Articles of Incorporation of Woodlands at Château Élan Owners Association, Inc., as filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia.

1.4. “Association”: Woodlands at Château Élan Owners Association, Inc., a Georgia nonprofit corporation, its successors or assigns.

1.5. “Board of Directors” or “Board”: The body responsible for administration of the Association, selected as provided in the By-Laws and serving as the board of directors under Georgia corporate law.

1.6. “Builder”: Any Person who purchases one (1) or more Lots for the purpose of constructing improvements for later sale to consumers or who purchases one (1) or more parcels of land within the Properties for further subdivision, development, and/or resale in the ordinary course of such Person’s business. Any Person occupying or leasing a Lot for residential purposes shall cease to be considered a Builder with respect to such Lot immediately upon occupancy of the Lot for residential purposes, notwithstanding that such Person originally purchased the Lot for the purpose of constructing improvements for later sale to consumers.

1.7. “By-laws”: The By-Laws of Woodlands at Château Élan Owners Association, Inc., attached as Exhibit “C,” as they may be amended.

1.8. “Class “B” Control Period”: The period of time during which the Class “B” Member is entitled to appoint a Majority of the members of the Board of Directors as provided in Section 3.2.

1.9. “Common Area”: All real and personal property, including easements and licenses, which the Association owns, leases or holds possessory or use rights in for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners. The term also shall include any Exclusive Common Area, as defined below.

1.10. “Common Expenses”: The actual and estimated expenses incurred, or anticipated to be incurred, by the Association for the general benefit of all Owners, including any reasonable reserve, as the Board may find necessary and appropriate pursuant to the Governing Documents. Common Expenses shall not include any expenses incurred during the Class “B” Control Period for initial development, original construction, installation of infrastructure, original capital improvements, or other original construction costs unless approved by Voting Delegates representing a Majority of the total Class “A” votes of the Association.

1.11. “Community-Wide Standard”: The standard of conduct, maintenance, or other activity generally prevailing throughout the Properties. Such standard shall initially be established by the Declarant and may be more specifically determined by the Board of Directors and the DRB.

1.12. “Cost Sharing Agreement”: Any agreement, contract or covenant between the Association and an owner or operator of property adjacent to, in the vicinity of, or within the Properties, including any Private Amenity, for the allocation of expenses that benefit both the Association and the owner or operator of such property.

1.13. “Days”: Calendar days; provided however, if the time period by which any action required hereunder must be performed expires on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then such time period shall be automatically extended to the close of business on the next regular business day.

1.14. “Declarant”: Fountainhead Development Corp., Inc., a Georgia corporation, or any successor, successor-in-title, or assign who takes title to any portion of the property described on Exhibits “A” or “B” for the purpose of development and/or sale and who is designated as the Declarant in a recorded instrument executed by the immediately preceding Declarant; provided however, there shall be only one (1) “Declarant” hereunder at any one time.

1.15. “Design Standards”: The design and construction standards and guidelines and application and review procedures applicable to all or any portion of the Properties promulgated and administered pursuant to Article 9.

1.16. “Development Period”: The period of time during which the Declarant owns any property which is subject to this Declaration, any Additional Property, or any Private Amenity, or has the unilateral right to subject Additional Property to this Declaration pursuant to Section 7.1.

1.17. “DRB”: The Design Review Board, as described in Section 9.2.



1.18. “Exclusive Common Area”: A portion of the Common Area intended for the exclusive use or primary benefit of one (1) or more, but less than all, Neighborhoods or Lots, as more particularly described in Article 2.

1.19. “General Assessment”: Assessments levied on all Lots subject to assessment under Article S to fund Common Expenses for the general benefit of all Lots, as more particularly described in Sections 8.1 and 8.3.

1.20. “Governing Documents”: The Declaration, By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, all Supplemental Declarations, all Design Standards, the rules of the Association, all Cost Sharing Agreements, and all additional covenants governing any portion of the Properties or any of the above, as each may be amended from time to time.

1.21. “Lot”: A portion of the Properties, whether improved or unimproved, which may be independently owned and conveyed and which is intended for development, use, and occupancy as a residence for a single family. The term shall refer to the land, if any, which is part of the Lot as well as any improvements thereon. The term shall include within its meaning, by way of illustration but not limitation, cluster homes and single-family detached houses on separately platted lots, as well as vacant land intended for development as such, but shall not include Common Area, common property owned by any Neighborhood Association, or property dedicated to the public.

In the case of an unplatted parcel of land, the parcel shall be deemed to be a single Lot until such time as a subdivision plat or condominium plat is filed with respect to all or a portion of the parcel. Thereafter, the portion encompassed by such plat shall contain the number of Lots determined as set forth in the preceding paragraph and any portion not encompassed by such plat shall continue to be treated in accordance with this paragraph.

1.22. “Majority”: Those votes, Owners, Members, or other group, as the context may indicate, totaling more than fifty percent (50%) of the total eligible number.

1.23. “Master Plan”: The land use plan or development plan for “The Woodlands at Château Élan,” as such plan may be amended from time to time, which includes the property described on Exhibit “A” and all or a portion of the Additional Property described on Exhibit “B” that Declarant may from time to time anticipate subjecting to this Declaration. Inclusion of property on the Master Plan shall not, under any circumstances, obligate Declarant to subject such property to this Declaration, nor shall the exclusion of property described on Exhibit “B” from the Master Plan bar its later annexation in accordance with Article 7.

1.24. “Member”: A Person subject to membership in the Association pursuant to Section 3.2.

1.25. “Mortgage”: A mortgage, a deed of trust, a deed to secure debt, or any other form of security instrument affecting title to any Lot.

1.26. “Mortgagee”: A beneficiary or holder of a Mortgage.

1.27. “Neighborhood”: A separately developed area within the Properties, whether or not governed by a Neighborhood Association (as defined below), in which the Owners of Lots may have common interests other than those common to all Members of the Association. For example, and by way of illustration and not limitation, each single-family or cluster home development may constitute a separate Neighborhood, or a Neighborhood may be comprised of more than one (1) housing type with other features in common. Neighborhood boundaries may be established and modified as provided in Section 3.3.

1.28. “Neighborhood Assessments”: Assessments levied against the Lots in a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods to fund Neighborhood Expenses, as described in Sections 8.1 and 8.4.

1.29. “Neighborhood Association”: Any condominium association or other owners association having concurrent jurisdiction with the Association over any Neighborhood.

1.30. “Neighborhood Expenses”: The actual and estimated expenses incurred or anticipated to be incurred by the Association for the benefit of Owners of Lots within a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods, which may include a reasonable reserve for capital repairs and replacements, as the Board may specifically authorize from time to time and as may be authorized herein or in Supplemental Declarations applicable to such Neighborhood(s).

1.31. “Owner”: One (1) or more Persons who hold the record title to any Lot, including the Declarant and any Builders, but excluding in all cases any party holding an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation. If a Lot is sold under a recorded contract of sale, and the contract specifically so provides, the purchaser (rather than the fee owner) will be considered the Owner. If a Lot is owned by more than one (1) Person, all such Persons shall be jointly and severally obligated to perform the responsibilities of such Owner.

1.32. “Person”: A natural person, a corporation, a partnership, a limited liability company, a fiduciary acting on behalf of another person or any other legal entity.

1.33. “Private Amenity”: Certain real property and any improvements and facilities thereon located adjacent to, in the vicinity of, or within the Properties which are owned and operated, in whole or in part, by Persons other than the Association for recreational or other purposes. The use of the term “Private Amenity” shall not be construed to imply or require a private club. Private Amenities may be operated on a club membership, daily fee, use fee, public, or private basis or otherwise. The Legends at Château Élan Golf Club and The Château Élan Winery and Resort are hereby designated by the Declarant as Private Amenities, and the Declarant reserves the right to designate additional Private Amenities in its sole discretion. Private Amenities shall not be included within the Common Area.

1.34. “Properties”: The real property described on Exhibit “A” as such exhibit may be amended or supplemented from time to time to reflect any additions or removal of property in accordance with Article 7.

1.35. “Public Records”: The Clerks of the Superior Courts of Gwinnett County and Barrow County, Georgia or such other place which is designated as the official location for recording of deeds and similar documents affecting title to real estate.

1.36. “Special Assessment”: Assessments levied in accordance with Section 8.6.

1.37. “Specific Assessment”: Assessments levied in accordance with Section 8.7.

1.38. “Supplemental Declaration”: An instrument filed in the Public Records which subjects Additional Property to this Declaration, designates Neighborhoods, and/or imposes, expressly or by reference, additional restrictions and obligations on the land described in such instrument. The term shall also refer to an instrument filed by the Declarant pursuant to Section 3.3(c) which designates Voting Groups.

1.39. “Voting Delegate”: Any representative selected by the Class “A” Members within each Neighborhood to be responsible for casting all Class “A” votes attributable to Lots in the Neighborhood on matters requiring a vote of the membership (except as otherwise specifically provided in this Declaration and in the By-Laws). The term “Voting Delegate” shall also refer to any alternate Voting Delegate acting in the absence of a Voting Delegate and any Owner personally casting the vote for his or her Lot pursuant to Section 3.3(b).

1.40. “Voting Group”: One (1) or more Voting Delegates who vote on a common slate for election of directors to the Board of Directors of the Association, as more particularly described in Section 3.3(c) of this Declaration or, if the context so indicates, the group of Class “A” Members whose Lots are represented thereby.

## **ARTICLE 2: PROPERTY RIGHTS**

2.1. Common Area. Every Owner shall have a right and nonexclusive easement of use, access, and enjoyment in and to the Common Area, which is appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to each Lot, subject to:

- (a) This Declaration and all other Governing Documents;
- (b) Any restrictions or limitations contained in any deed conveying such property to the Association;
- (c) The right of the Board to adopt, amend and repeal rules regulating the use and enjoyment of the Common Area, including rules limiting the number of guests who may use the Common Area;
- (d) The right of the Board to suspend the right of an Owner to use any recreational and social facilities within the Common Area and Exclusive Common Area pursuant to Section 4.3;
- (e) The right of the Board to impose reasonable requirements and charge reasonable admission or other use fees for the use of any facility situated upon the Common Area;
- (f) The right of the Board to permit use of any facilities situated on the Common Area by persons other than Owners, their families, lessees and guests upon payment of reasonable use fees, if any, established by the Board;
- (g) The right of the Association, acting through the Board, to mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate any or all of its real or personal property as security for money borrowed or debts incurred;
- (h) The right of the Association, acting through the Board, to dedicate or transfer all or any portion of the Common Area, subject to any approval requirements set forth in the Governing Documents;
- (i) The rights of certain Owners to the exclusive use of those portions of the Common Area designated "Exclusive Common Areas," as more particularly described in Section 2.2; and
- (j) The right of the Declarant to conduct activities and establish facilities within the Properties as provided in Article 13.

Any Owner may extend his or her right of use and enjoyment to the members of his or her family, lessees, and social invitees, as applicable, subject to reasonable regulation by the Board. An Owner who leases his or her Lot shall be deemed to have assigned all such rights to the lessee of such Lot.

In addition, every Owner shall have a right and nonexclusive easement of use, access, and enjoyment in and to, over and across any private streets and roads within the Properties.

2.2. Exclusive Common Area. Certain portions of the Common Area may be designated as Exclusive Common Area and reserved for the exclusive use or primary benefit of Owners and occupants of specified Lots or Neighborhoods. By way of illustration and not limitation, Exclusive Common Areas may include entry features, gates, private streets, landscaped medians and cul-de-sacs, ponds, and other portions of the Common Area within a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods. All costs associated with maintenance, repair, replacement, and insurance of an Exclusive Common Area shall be assessed against the Owners of Lots to which the Exclusive Common Areas are assigned either as a Neighborhood Assessment or as a Specific Assessment, as applicable.

Initially, any Exclusive Common Area shall be designated as such, and the exclusive use thereof shall be assigned, in the deed by which the Common Area is conveyed to the Association, or in this Declaration, or any Supplemental Declaration and/or on the subdivision plat relating to such Common Area; provided however, any such assignment shall not preclude the Declarant from later assigning use of the same Exclusive Common Area to additional Lots and/or Neighborhoods during the Development Period. Thereafter, a portion of the Common Area may be assigned as Exclusive Common Area of particular Lots or a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods and Exclusive Common Area may be

reassigned upon approval of the Board and the vote of Voting Delegates representing a Majority of the total Class “A” votes in the Association, including, if applicable, a Majority of the Class “A” votes within the Neighborhood(s) to which the Exclusive Common Area is assigned, if previously assigned, and within the Neighborhood(s) to which the Exclusive Common Area is to be assigned or reassigned.

The Association may, upon approval of a Majority of the Class “A” votes within the Neighborhood(s) to which any Exclusive Common Area is assigned, permit Owners of Lots in other Neighborhoods to use all or a portion of such Exclusive Common Area upon payment of reasonable user fees, which fees shall be used to offset the Neighborhood Expenses or Specific Assessments attributable to such Exclusive Common Area.

2.3. No Partition. Except as permitted in this Declaration, there shall be no judicial partition of the Common Area. No Person shall seek any judicial partition unless the portion of the Common Area which is the subject of such partition action has been removed from the provisions of this Declaration.

This Section shall not prohibit the Board from acquiring and disposing of real property which may or may not be subject to this Declaration.

2.4. Condemnation. The Association shall be the sole representative with respect to condemnation proceedings concerning Common Area and shall act as attorney-in-fact for all Owners in such matters. If any part of the Common Area shall be taken by any authority having the power of condemnation or eminent domain or conveyed in lieu of and under threat of condemnation by the Board acting on the written direction of Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total Class “A” votes in the Association and, during the Development Period, the written consent of the Declarant, each Owner shall be entitled to written notice of such taking or conveyance prior to disbursement of any condemnation award or proceeds of such conveyance. The award made for such taking or proceeds of such conveyance shall be payable to the Association.

If the taking or conveyance involves a portion of the Common Area on which improvements have been constructed, the Association shall restore or replace such improvements on the remaining land included in the Common Area to the extent available, unless within sixty (60) Days after such taking the Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total Class “A” vote of the Association and, during the Development Period, the Declarant shall otherwise agree. Any such construction shall be in accordance with plans approved by the Board and the DRB. The provisions of Section 6.1(c) regarding funds for the repair of damage or destruction shall apply.

If the taking or conveyance does not involve any improvements on the Common Area, or if a decision is made not to repair or restore, or if net funds remain after any such restoration or replacement is complete, then such award or net funds shall be disbursed to the Association and used for such purposes as the Board shall determine.

### **ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS**

3.1. Membership. Every Owner shall be a Member of the Association. There shall be only one (1) membership per Lot. If a Lot is owned by more than one (1) Person, all co-Owners shall share the privileges of such membership, subject to reasonable Board regulation and the restrictions on voting set forth in Section 3.2(d) and in the By-Laws. The membership rights of an Owner which is not a natural person may be exercised by any officer, director, member, manager, partner or trustee of such Owner, or by any individual designated from time to time by the Owner in a written instrument provided to the secretary of the Association.

3.2. Voting. The Association shall have two (2) classes of membership, Class “A” and Class “B.”

(a) Class “A”. Class “A” Members shall be all Owners except the Class “B” Member, if any. Class “A” Members shall have one (1) equal vote for each Lot in which they hold the interest required for

membership under Section 3.1; provided however, there shall be only one (1) vote per Lot and no vote shall be exercised for any property which is exempt from assessment under Section 8.11. All Class "A" votes shall be cast as provided in Section 3.2(d) below.

(b) Class "B". The sole Class "B" Member shall be the Declarant. The rights of the Class "B" Member, including the right to approve, or withhold approval of, actions proposed under this Declaration, the By-Laws and the Articles, are specified in the relevant sections of this Declaration, the By-Laws and the Articles. The Class "B" Member may appoint a Majority of the members of the Board of Directors during the Class "B" Control Period which shall continue until the first to occur of the following:

- (i) When ninety percent (90%) of the total number of Lots permitted by the Master Plan for the property described on Exhibits "A" and "B" have certificates of occupancy issued thereon and have been conveyed to Persons other than Builders;
- (ii) December 31, 2020; or
- (iii) when, in its discretion, the Class "B" Member so determines and voluntarily relinquishes such right.

After termination of the Class "B" Control Period, the Class "B" Member shall have a right to disapprove actions of the Board and committees as provided in the By-Laws. The Class "B" membership shall terminate upon the earlier of:

- (i) two (2) years after expiration of the Class "B" Control Period; or
- (ii) when, in its discretion, the Declarant so determines and declares in a recorded instrument.

Upon termination of the Class "B" membership, the Declarant shall be a Class "A" Member entitled to Class "A" votes for each Lot which it owns.

(c) Additional Classes of Membership. The Declarant may, by Supplemental Declaration, create additional classes of membership for the owners of Lots within any Additional Property made subject to this Declaration pursuant to Article 7, with such rights, privileges and obligations as may be specified in such Supplemental Declaration, in recognition of the different character and intended use of the properly subject to such Supplemental Declaration.

(d) Exercise of Voting Rights by Class "A" Members. If there is more than one (1) Owner of a Lot, the vote for such Lot shall be exercised as the co-Owners determine among themselves and advise the secretary of the Association in writing prior to the vote being taken. Absent such advice, the Lot's vote shall be suspended if more than one (1) Person seeks to exercise it. No vote shall be exercised on behalf of any Lot if any assessment for such Lot is delinquent. If Voting Delegates have been elected pursuant to Section 3.3(b), the vote for each Lot owned by a Class "A" Member shall be exercised by the Voting Delegate representing the Neighborhood of which the Lot is a part, as provided in such Section.

### 3.3. Neighborhoods. Voting Delegates and Voting Groups.

(a) Neighborhoods. Every Lot shall be located within a Neighborhood; provided however, unless and until additional Neighborhoods are established, the Properties shall consist of one (1) Neighborhood. The Declarant, in its sole discretion, may establish Neighborhoods within the Properties by designation on Exhibit "A" to this Declaration, a Supplemental Declaration, or a plat. During the Development Period, the Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration or any Supplemental Declaration from time to time to assign property to a specific Neighborhood, to redesignate Neighborhood boundaries, or to remove property from a specific Neighborhood.

The Owner(s) of a Majority of the total number of Lots within any Neighborhood may at any time petition the Board of Directors to divide the property comprising the Neighborhood into two (2) or more Neighborhoods. Such petition shall be in writing and shall include a survey of the entire parcel which indicates the proposed boundaries of the new Neighborhoods or otherwise identifies the Lots to be included within the proposed Neighborhoods. Such petition shall be deemed granted thirty (30) Days following the filing of all required documents with the Board unless the Board of Directors denies such application in writing within such thirty (30) Day period. The Board may deny an application only upon determination that there is no reasonable basis for distinguishing between the areas proposed to be divided into separate Neighborhoods. All applications and copies of any denials shall be filed with the books and records of the Association.

The Lots within a particular Neighborhood may be subject to additional covenants and/or the Lot Owners may be members of a Neighborhood Association in addition to the Association. However, a Neighborhood Association shall not be required except as required by law. Any Neighborhood which does not have a Neighborhood Association may, but shall not be obligated to, elect a Neighborhood Committee, as described in the By-Laws, to represent the interests of Owners of Lots in such Neighborhood.

Any Neighborhood may request that the Association provide a higher level of service or special services for the benefit of Lots in such Neighborhood and, upon the affirmative vote, written consent, or a combination thereof, of Owners of a Majority of the Lots within the Neighborhood, the Association may, in its sole discretion, provide the requested services. The cost of such services, which may include a reasonable administrative charge in such amount as the Board deems appropriate (provided any such administrative charge shall apply at a uniform rate per Lot to all Neighborhoods receiving the same service), shall be assessed against the Lots within such Neighborhood as a Neighborhood Assessment pursuant to Article 8 hereof.

(b) Voting Delegates. The Owners within each Neighborhood may elect a Voting Delegate who shall be responsible for casting all votes attributable to Lots owned by Class "A" Members in the Neighborhood on all Association matters requiring a membership vote, except as otherwise specified in this Declaration or the By-Laws. In addition, each Neighborhood may elect an alternate Voting Delegate who shall be responsible for casting such votes in the absence of the Voting Delegate. No Person shall be eligible to serve as a Voting Delegate or an alternate Voting Delegate if any assessment for such Person's Lot is delinquent.

If Voting Delegates and alternate Voting Delegates will be elected, elections shall take place on an annual basis, either by written ballot cast by mail or at a meeting of the Class "A" Members within each Neighborhood, as the Board determines; provided however, upon written petition signed by Class "A" Members holding at least ten percent (10%) of the votes attributable to Lots within any Neighborhood, the election for such Neighborhood shall be held at a meeting. The presence, in person or by proxy, of Class "A" Members representing at least ten percent (10%) of the total Class "A" votes attributable to Lots in the Neighborhood shall constitute a quorum at any Neighborhood meeting.

The Board in its sole discretion shall determine whether Voting Delegates shall be elected for each Neighborhood; provided however, all Neighborhoods which are similarly situated shall be treated the same. If Voting Delegates will be elected for a Neighborhood, the Board shall send notice of the election to all Owners within the Neighborhood; provided however, the first election of a Voting Delegate for any Neighborhood shall not be held until at least fifty percent (50%) of the Lots planned for such Neighborhood have been conveyed to Persons other than Builders.

Subsequent elections within each Neighborhood shall be held annually. Each Class "A" Member who owns a Lot within the Neighborhood shall be entitled to cast one (1) equal vote per Lot owned. The candidate who receives the greatest number of votes shall be elected as Voting Delegate and the candidate receiving the next greatest number of votes shall be elected as the alternate Voting Delegate. The Voting

Delegate and the alternate Voting Delegate shall serve a term of one (1) year and until their successors are elected.

Any Voting Delegate or alternate Voting Delegate may be removed, with or without cause, upon the vote or written petition of Owners of a Majority of the total number of Lots owned by Class "A" Members in the Neighborhood which the Voting Delegate or alternate Voting Delegate represents. Any Voting Delegate or alternate Voting Delegate shall be automatically removed and ineligible to cast the votes attributable to Lots in such Voting Delegate's Neighborhood if any assessment for such Voting Delegate's Lot is delinquent. Upon removal of a Voting Delegate or an alternate, a successor shall be elected by the Owners of Lots within the Neighborhood to fill the vacancy for the remainder of such delegate's term.

Until such time as the Board first calls for election of a Voting Delegate for any Neighborhood, the Owners within such Neighborhood shall be entitled personally to cast the votes attributable to their respective Lots on any issue requiring a vote of the Voting Delegates under this Declaration, the By-Laws, or the Articles.

Prior to taking a vote on any issue requiring membership approval, the Association shall distribute proxies to all Members represented by Voting Delegates allowing each Member to direct in writing how such Member's vote is to be cast with respect to such issue by the Voting Delegate who represents him or her. The Voting Delegates shall be required to cast all votes for which specific proxies are returned in the manner directed in such proxies. All other votes may be cast as the Voting Delegate deems appropriate in its sole discretion. The Board may adopt resolutions establishing additional procedures for polling Members.

(c) Voting Groups. The Declarant may designate Voting Groups consisting of one (1) or more Neighborhoods for the purpose of electing directors to the Board. The designation of Voting Groups, if any, shall be to promote representation on the Board of Directors for various groups having dissimilar interests and to avoid a situation in which the Voting Delegates representing similar Neighborhoods are able, due to the number of Lots in such Neighborhoods, to elect the entire Board of Directors, excluding representation of others. The number of Voting Groups within the Properties shall not exceed the total number of directors to be elected by the Class "A" Members pursuant to the By-Laws. The Voting Delegates representing the Neighborhoods within each Voting Group shall vote on a separate slate of candidates for election to the Board, with each Voting Group being entitled to elect the number of directors specified in the By-Laws.

The Declarant shall establish Voting Groups, if at all, not later than the date of expiration of the Class "B" Control Period by filing with the Association and in the Public Records a Supplemental Declaration identifying each Voting Group by legal description or other means such that the Lots within each Voting Group can easily be determined. Such designation may be unilaterally amended from time to time by the Declarant during the Development Period.

After expiration of the Declarant's right to amend any designation of Voting Groups as provided above, the Board shall have the right to file or amend any Supplemental Declaration for the purpose of designating Voting Groups. Neither recordation nor amendment of such Supplemental Declaration shall constitute an amendment to this Declaration, and no consent or approval of any Person shall be required except as stated in this Section. Until such time as Voting Groups are established, all of the Properties shall constitute a single Voting Group. After a Supplemental Declaration establishing Voting Groups has been filed, any and all portions of the Properties which are not assigned to a specific Voting Group shall constitute a single Voting Group.

## ARTICLE 4: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

4.1. Function of Association. The Association shall be the entity responsible for management, maintenance, operation and control of the Area of Common Responsibility and all improvements thereon. The Association shall be the primary entity responsible for enforcement of this Declaration and such reasonable rules regulating use of the Properties as the Board may adopt pursuant to Article 10. The Association shall also be responsible for administering and enforcing the architectural standards and controls set forth in this Declaration and in the Design Standards. The Association shall perform its functions in accordance with the Governing Documents and the laws of the State of Georgia.

4.2. Personal Property and Real Property for Common. Use The Association may acquire, hold, and dispose of tangible and intangible personal property and real property. The Declarant and its designees, with the Declarant's prior written consent, may convey to the Association improved or unimproved real estate, or interests in real estate, located within the property described in Exhibits "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 expense for the benefit of its Members, subject to 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 or repairs whatsoever to property to be conveyed and accepted pursuant to this Section including, without limitation, dredging or otherwise removing silt from any pond or other body of water that may be conveyed. Upon written request of Declarant, the Association shall reconvey to Declarant any unimproved portions of the Properties originally conveyed by Declarant to the Association for no consideration, to the extent conveyed by Declarant in error or needed by Declarant to make adjustments in property lines.

4.3. Enforcement. The Board or any committee established by the Board, with the Board's approval, may impose sanctions for violation of the Governing Documents after compliance with the notice and hearing procedures set forth in Section 3.25 of the By-Laws. Such sanctions may include, without limitation:

- (a) imposing monetary fines which shall constitute a lien upon the Lot of the violator (In the event that any occupant, guest or invitee of a Lot violates the Governing Documents and a fine is imposed, the fine shall first be assessed against the occupant; provided however, if the fine is not paid by the occupant within the time period set by the Board, the Owner shall pay the fine upon notice from the Board.);
- (b) filing notices of violations in the Public Records providing record notice of any violation of the Governing Documents;
- (c) suspending an Owner's right to vote;
- (d) suspending any Person's right to use any recreational facilities within the Common Area, including any Exclusive Common Area; provided however, nothing herein shall authorize the Board to limit ingress or egress to or from a Lot; and
- (e) suspending any services provided by the Association to an Owner or the Owner's Lot if the Owner is more than thirty (30) Days delinquent in paying any assessment or other charge owed to the Association.

In the event that any occupant, guest or invitee of a Lot violates the Governing Documents, the Board or any committee established by the Board, with the Board's approval, may sanction such occupant, guest or invitee and/or the Owner of the Lot that the violator is occupying or visiting.

In addition, the Board, or the covenants committee if established, may elect to enforce any provision of the Governing Documents by exercising self-help (specifically including, but not limited to, the filing of liens in the Public Records for non-payment of assessments and other charges, the towing of



vehicles that are in violation of parking rules, the removal of pets that are in violation of pet rules, or the correction of any maintenance, construction or other violation of the Governing Documents) without the necessity of compliance with the procedures set forth in the By-Laws. The Association may levy Specific Assessments to cover all costs incurred in bringing a Lot into compliance with the terms of the Governing Documents.

The Association may also elect to enforce any provision of the Governing Documents by suit at law or in equity to enjoin any violation or to recover monetary damages or both without the necessity of compliance with the procedures set forth in the By-Laws.

All remedies set forth in this Declaration and the By-Laws shall be cumulative of any remedies available at law or in equity. In any action or remedy taken by the Association to enforce the provisions of the Governing Documents, if the Association prevails, it shall be entitled to recover all costs, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys fees and court costs, incurred in such action.

The Association shall not be obligated to take action to enforce any covenant, restriction, or rule which the Board in the exercise of its business judgment determines is, or is likely to be construed as, inconsistent with applicable law, or in any case in which the Board reasonably determines that the Association's position is not strong enough to justify taking enforcement action. Any such determination shall not be construed a waiver of the right of the Association to enforce such provision under any circumstances or prevent the Association from enforcing any other covenant, restriction or rule.

The Association, by contract or other agreement may enforce county, city, state and federal ordinances, if applicable, and permit local and other governments to enforce ordinances on the Properties for the benefit of the Association and its Members.

4.4. Implied Rights; Board Authority. The Association may exercise any right or privilege given to it expressly by this Declaration or the By-Laws, or reasonably implied from or reasonably necessary to effectuate any such right or privilege. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Declaration, the By-Laws, the Articles, or by law, all rights and powers of the Association may be exercised by the Board without a vote of the membership.

4.5. Governmental Interests. During the Development Period, the Declarant may designate sites within the Properties for fire, police, and utility facilities, public parks, streets, and other public or quasi-public facilities. No membership approval shall be required for such designation. The sites may include Common Area, in which case the Association shall take whatever action is required with respect to such site to permit such use, including conveyance of the site, if so directed by Declarant. The sites may include other property not owned by Declarant provided the owner of such property consents.

4.6. Indemnification. The Association shall indemnify every officer, director, DRB member and committee member against all damages, liabilities, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys fees, incurred 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 he or she may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer, director, DRB member or committee member, except that such obligation to indemnify shall be limited to those actions for which liability is limited under this Section, the Articles of Incorporation and Georgia law.

The officers, directors, DRB members and committee members 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, directors, DRB members, and committee members shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made or action taken in good faith on behalf of the Association (except to the extent that such officers, directors, DRB members or committee members may also be Members of the Association). The Association shall indemnify and forever hold each such officer, director, DRB member and committee member harmless from any and all liability to others on account of any such contract, commitment or action. This right to indemnification shall not be

exclusive of any other rights to which any present or former officer, director, DRB member or committee member may be entitled. The Association shall, as a Common Expense, maintain adequate general liability and officers' and directors' liability insurance to fund this obligation, if such insurance is reasonably available.

4.7. Dedication of or Grant of Easements on Common Area. The Association may dedicate or grant easements across portions of the Common Area to the Town of Braselton, Gwinnett County, Barrow County or to any other local, state, or federal governmental or quasi-governmental entity.

4.8. Security. Each Owner and occupant of a Lot, and their respective guests and invitees shall be responsible for their own personal safety and the security of their property in the Properties The Association may, but shall not be obligated to, maintain or support certain activities within the Properties designed to make the Properties safer than they otherwise might be. Neither the Association, the original Declarant, nor any successor Declarant shall in any way be considered insurers or guarantors of security within the Properties, nor shall any of them be held liable for any loss or damage by reason of failure to provide adequate security or ineffectiveness of security measures undertaken. No representation or warranty is made that any security system or measure, including any mechanism or system for limiting access to the Properties, cannot be compromised or circumvented, nor that any such system or security measure undertaken will in all cases prevent loss or provide the detection or protection for which the system is designed or intended. Each Owner acknowledges, understands and covenants to inform its tenants and all occupants of its Lot that the Association, its Board of Directors and committees, Declarant, and any successor Declarant are not insurers and that each Person using the Properties assumes all risks of personal injury and loss or damage to property, including Lots and the contents of Lots, resulting from acts of third parties.

## **ARTICLE 5: MAINTENANCE**

### 5.1. Association's Responsibility.

(a) The Association shall maintain and keep in good condition, order and repair the Area of Common Responsibility, which may include, but need not be limited to:

- (i) all Common Area;
- (ii) all street trees, landscaping and other flora, parks, ponds, trails, structures, and improvements, including any entry features, gates, private streets, sidewalks, parking areas and recreational facilities situated upon the Common Area;
- (iii) all furnishings, equipment and other personal property of the Association;
- (iv) any street trees, landscaping and other flora, buffers, trails, sidewalks, entry features, gates, structures and improvements within public or private rights-of-way within or abutting the Properties or upon such other public land adjacent to the Properties as deemed necessary in the discretion of the Board;
- (v) such additional portions of any property included within the Area of common Responsibility as may be dictated by this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, any Cost Sharing Agreement, or any contract or agreement for maintenance thereof entered into by the Association; and
- (vi) any property and facilities owned by the Declarant and made available, on a temporary or permanent basis, for the primary use and enjoyment of the Association and its Members, such property and facilities to be identified by written notice from the Declarant to the Association and to remain a part of the Area of Common Responsibility and be maintained by the Association until such time as Declarant revokes such privilege of use and enjoyment by written notice to the Association.

The Association may, as a Common Expense, maintain other property and improvements which it does not own, including, without limitation, property dedicated to the public, or provide maintenance or services related to such property over and above the level being provided by the property owner, if the Board of Directors determines that such maintenance is necessary or desirable to maintain the Community-Wide Standard.

(b) The Association shall maintain the facilities and equipment within the Area of Common Responsibility in continuous operation, except for any periods necessary, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, to perform required maintenance or repairs, unless Members holding sixty-seven percent (67%) of the Class "A" votes in the Association and during the Development Period the Declarant agree in writing to discontinue such operation.

(c) The Association may be relieved of all or any portion of its maintenance responsibilities herein to the extent that (i) such maintenance responsibility is otherwise assumed by or assigned to an Owner or a Neighborhood Association or (ii) such property is dedicated to any local, state, or federal government or quasi-governmental entity; provided however, that in connection with such assumption, assignment or dedication, the Association may reserve or assume the right or obligation to continue to perform all or any portion of its maintenance responsibilities, if the Board determines that such maintenance is necessary or desirable to maintain the Community-Wide Standard.

Except as provided above, the Area of Common Responsibility shall not be reduced by amendment of this Declaration or any other means during the Development Period except with the written consent of the Declarant.

(d) Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, all costs associated with maintenance, repair and replacement of the Area of Common Responsibility shall be a Common Expense to be allocated among all Lots as part of the General Assessment, without prejudice to the right of the Association to seek reimbursement from the owner(s) of, or other Persons responsible for, certain portions of the Area of Common Responsibility pursuant to this Declaration, any Cost Sharing Agreement, any recorded covenants, or any agreements with the owner(s) thereof. All costs associated with maintenance, repair and replacement of Exclusive Common Areas shall be a Neighborhood Expense assessed as a Neighborhood Assessment solely against the Lots within the Neighborhood(s) to which the Exclusive Common Areas are assigned, or a Specific Assessment against the particular Lots to which the Exclusive Common Areas are assigned, notwithstanding that the Association may be responsible for performing such maintenance hereunder.

(e) The Association may mow and maintain on each unimproved Lot any grass within that portion of the Lot located between the lot boundary adjacent to the street and a line parallel with such lot boundary located three (3) yards from such boundary.

(f) In the event that the Association fails to properly perform its maintenance responsibilities hereunder and to comply with the Community-Wide Standard, the Declarant may, upon not less than ten (10) Days' notice and opportunity to cure such failure, cause such maintenance to be performed and in such event, shall be entitled to reimbursement from the Association for all costs incurred.

5.2. Owner's Responsibility. Each Owner shall maintain his or her Lot, and all structures, parking areas, sprinkler and irrigation systems, landscaping and other flora, and other improvements comprising the Lot in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard and all Governing Documents, unless such maintenance responsibility is otherwise assumed by or assigned to the Association or a Neighborhood Association. In addition to any other enforcement rights, if an Owner fails properly to perform his or her maintenance responsibility, the Association may perform such maintenance responsibilities and assess all costs incurred by the Association against the Lot and the Owner in accordance with Section 8.7. The Association shall afford the Owner reasonable notice and an

opportunity to cure the problem prior to entry, except when entry is required due to an emergency situation.

5.3. Neighborhood's Responsibility. Upon resolution of the Board of Directors, the Owners of Lots within each Neighborhood shall be responsible for paying, through Neighborhood Assessments, the costs of operating, maintaining and insuring certain portions of the Area of Common Responsibility within or adjacent to such Neighborhood. This may include, without limitation, the costs of maintaining any signage, entry features, gates, right-of-way or open space between the Neighborhood and adjacent roads, private streets within the Neighborhood, and ponds within the Neighborhood, regardless of ownership or the Person performing the maintenance; provided however, all Neighborhoods which are similarly situated shall be treated the same.

Any Neighborhood Association having responsibility for maintenance within a particular Neighborhood pursuant to additional covenants applicable to such Neighborhood shall perform such maintenance responsibility in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard. If it fails to do so, the Association may perform such responsibilities and assess the costs as a Specific Assessment against all Lots within such Neighborhood as provided in Section 8.7.

5.4. Standard of Performance. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein or in other instruments creating and assigning such maintenance responsibility, responsibility for maintenance shall include responsibility for repair and replacement, as necessary. All maintenance shall be performed in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard and all Governing Documents. Neither the Association, any Owner nor any Neighborhood Association shall be liable for any damage or injury occurring on, or arising out of the condition of, property which such Person does not own except to the extent that it has been negligent in the performance of its maintenance responsibilities.

5.5. Cost Sharing Agreements. Adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Properties, there may be certain residential, nonresidential or recreational areas, including without limitation single family residential developments such as The Legends, Executive Estates, and Country Estates, retail, commercial, or business areas and Private Amenities, which are not subject to this Declaration and which are neither Lots nor Common Area as defined in this Declaration (hereinafter "adjacent properties"). The owners of such adjacent properties shall not be Members of the Association, shall not be entitled to vote, and shall not be subject to assessment under Article 8 of this Declaration.

The Association may enter into Cost Sharing Agreements with the owners or operators of portions of the adjacent properties:

- (a) to obligate the owners or operators of such adjacent properties to share in certain costs associated with the maintenance, repair, replacement and insuring of portions of the Area of Common Responsibility, if any, which are used by or benefit jointly the owners or operators of such adjacent properties and the owners within the Properties; and/or
- (b) to obligate the Association to share in certain costs associated with the maintenance, repair, replacement and insuring of portions of such adjacent properties, if any, which are used by or benefit jointly the owners or operators of such adjacent properties and the owners within the Properties.

The owners or operators of such adjacent properties shall be subject to assessment by the Association only in accordance with the provisions of such Cost Sharing Agreement(s). If the Association is obligated to share costs incurred by the owners of such adjacent properties, the Cost Sharing Agreement shall provide whether such payments by the Association shall constitute Common Expenses or Neighborhood Expenses of the Association. The owners or operators of the adjacent properties shall not be subject to the restrictions contained in this Declaration except as otherwise specifically provided herein.

## ARTICLE 6: INSURANCE AND CASUALTY LOSSES

### 6.1. Association Insurance.

(a) Required Coverages. The Association, acting through its Board or its duly authorized agent, shall obtain and continue in effect the following types of insurance, if reasonably available, or if not reasonably available, the most nearly equivalent coverages as are reasonably available:

(i) Blanket property insurance covering “risks of direct physical loss” on a “special form” basis (or comparable coverage by whatever name denominated) for all insurable improvements on the Common Area, if any, and on other portions of the Area of Common Responsibility to the extent that it has assumed responsibility for maintenance, repair and/or replacement in the event of a casualty. If such coverage is not generally available at reasonable cost, then “broad form” coverage may be substituted. The Association shall have the authority to and interest in insuring any property for which it has maintenance or repair responsibility, regardless of ownership. All property insurance policies obtained by the Association shall have policy limits sufficient to cover the full replacement cost of the insured improvements;

(ii) Commercial general liability insurance on the Area of Common Responsibility, insuring the Association and its Members for damage or injury caused by the negligence of the Association or any of its Members, employees, agents, or contractors while acting on its behalf. If generally available at reasonable cost, the commercial general liability coverage (including primary and any umbrella coverage) shall have a limit of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence with respect to bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage, provided should additional coverage and higher limits be available at reasonable cost which a reasonably prudent person would obtain, the Association shall obtain such additional coverages or limits;

(iii) Workers compensation insurance and employers liability insurance, if and to the extent required by law;

(iv) Directors and officers liability coverage;

(v) Fidelity insurance covering all Persons responsible for handling Association funds in an amount determined in the Board’s best business judgment but not less than an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the annual General Assessments on all Lots plus reserves on hand. Fidelity insurance policies shall contain a waiver of all defenses based upon the exclusion of Persons serving without compensation; and

(vi) Such additional insurance as the Board, in its best business judgment, determines advisable, which may include, without limitation, flood insurance.

In the event that any portion of the Common Area is or shall become located in an area identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) as an area having special flood hazards, a “blanket” policy of flood insurance on the Common Area must be maintained in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of current “replacement cost” of all effected improvements and other insurance property or the maximum limit of coverage available, whichever is less.

In addition, the Association may obtain and maintain property insurance on the insurable improvements within any Neighborhood in such amounts and with such coverages as the Owners in such Neighborhood may agree upon pursuant to Section 3.3(a). Any such policies shall provide for a certificate of insurance to be furnished to the Neighborhood Association and to the Owner of each Lot insured upon request.

Premiums for all insurance on the Area of Common Responsibility shall be Common Expenses and shall be included in the General Assessment, except that (i) premiums for property insurance obtained

on behalf of a Neighborhood shall be charged to the Owners of Lots within the benefited Neighborhood as a Neighborhood Assessment; and (ii) premiums for insurance on Exclusive Common Areas may be included in the Neighborhood Assessment of the Neighborhood(s) benefited unless the Board of Directors reasonably determines that other treatment of the premiums is more appropriate. In the event of an insured loss, the deductible shall be treated as a Common Expense or a Neighborhood Expense and assessed in the same manner as the premiums for the applicable insurance coverage. However, if the Board reasonably determines, after notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with the By-Laws, that the loss is the result of the negligence or willful misconduct of one (1) or more Owners, their guests, invitees, or lessees, then the Board may specifically assess the full amount of such deductible against such Owner(s) and their Lots pursuant to Section 8.7.

The Association shall have no insurance responsibility for any portion of the Private Amenities.

(b) Policy Requirements. The Association shall arrange for periodic reviews of the sufficiency of insurance coverage by one (1) or more qualified Persons, at least one (1) of whom must be familiar with insurable replacement costs in the Braselton, Georgia area.

All Association policies shall provide for a certificate of insurance to be furnished to the Association and to each Member upon request. 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 policy limits satisfy the requirements of Section 6.1(a).

(i) All insurance coverage obtained by the Board shall:

(1) be written with a company authorized to do business in the State of Georgia which satisfies the requirements of the Federal National Mortgage Association, or such other secondary mortgage market agencies or federal agencies as the Board deems appropriate;

(2) be written in the name of the Association as trustee for the benefited parties. Policies on the Common Areas shall be for the benefit of the Association and its Members. Policies secured on behalf of a Neighborhood shall be for the benefit of the Owners of Lots within the Neighborhood and their Mortgagees, as their interests may appear;

(3) not be brought into contribution with insurance purchased by Owners, occupants, or their Mortgagees individually;

(4) contain an inflation guard endorsement;

(5) include an agreed amount endorsement, if the policy contains a co-insurance clause; and

(6) an endorsement requiring at least thirty (30) Days prior written notice to the Association of any cancellation, substantial modification, or non-renewal.

(ii) In addition, the Board shall use reasonable efforts to secure insurance policies which list the Owners as additional insured and provide:

(1) a waiver of subrogation as to any claims against the Association's Board, officers, employees, and its manager, the Owners and their tenants, servants, agents, and guests;

(2) a waiver of the insurer's rights to repair and reconstruct instead of paying cash;

(3) an endorsement precluding cancellation, invalidation, suspension, or non-renewal by the insurer on account of any one (1) or more individual Owners, or on account of any curable defect or violation without prior written demand to the Association to cure the defect or violation and allowance of a reasonable time to cure;

(4) an endorsement excluding Owners' individual policies from consideration under any "other insurance" clause;

(5) a cross liability provision; and

(6) a provision vesting the Board with the exclusive authority to adjust losses; provided however, no Mortgagee having an interest in such losses may be prohibited from participating in the settlement negotiations, if any, related to the loss.

(c) Damage and Destruction. Immediately after damage or destruction to all or any part of the property covered by insurance written in the name of the Association, the Board or its duly authorized agent shall file and adjust all insurance claims and obtain reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repair or reconstruction. Repair or reconstruction, as used in this subsection, means repairing or restoring the property to substantially the condition in which it existed prior to the damage, allowing for changes or improvements necessitated by changes in applicable building codes.

Any damage to or destruction of the Common Area shall be repaired or reconstructed unless the Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, and during the Development Period the Declarant decide within sixty (60) Days after the loss not to repair or reconstruct.

If either the insurance proceeds or reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repair or reconstruction, or both, are not available to the Association within such sixty (60) Day period, then the period shall be extended until such funds or information are available. However, such extension shall not exceed sixty (60) additional Days. No Mortgagee shall have the right to participate in the determination of whether the damage or destruction to the Common Area shall be repaired or reconstructed.

If determined in the manner described above that the damage or destruction to the Common Area shall not be repaired or reconstructed and no alternative improvements are authorized, the affected property shall be cleared of all debris and ruins and thereafter shall be maintained by the Association in a neat and attractive, landscaped condition consistent with the Community-Wide Standard.

Any insurance proceeds remaining after paying the costs of repair or reconstruction, or after such settlement as is necessary and appropriate, shall be retained by and for the benefit of the Association or the Neighborhood, as appropriate, and placed in a capital improvements account. This is a covenant for the benefit of Mortgagees and may be enforced by the Mortgagee of any affected Lot.

If insurance proceeds are insufficient to cover the costs of repair or reconstruction, the Board of Directors may, without a vote of the Voting Delegates, levy Special Assessments to cover the shortfall against those Owners responsible for the premiums for the applicable insurance coverage under Section 6.1(a).

6.2. Owners' Insurance. By virtue of taking title to a Lot, each Owner covenants and agrees with all other Owners and with the Association to carry property insurance for the full replacement cost of all insurable improvements on his or her Lot, less a reasonable deductible, unless either the Neighborhood Association (if any) for the Neighborhood in which the Lot is located or the Association carries such insurance (which they may, but are not obligated to do hereunder). If the Association assumes responsibility for obtaining any insurance coverage on behalf of Owners, the premiums for such insurance shall be levied as a Specific Assessment against the benefited Lot and the Owner thereof pursuant to Section 8.7.

Each Owner further covenants and agrees that in the event of damage to or destruction of structures on or comprising his or her Lot, the Owner shall proceed promptly to repair or to reconstruct in a manner consistent with the original construction or such other plans and specifications as are approved in accordance with Article 9. Alternatively, the Owner shall clear the Lot of all debris and ruins and maintain the Lot in a neat and attractive, landscaped condition consistent with the Community-Wide Standard. The Owner shall pay any costs which are not covered by insurance proceeds.

The requirements of this Section shall apply to any Neighborhood Association that owns common property within the Neighborhood in the same manner as if the Neighborhood Association were an Owner and the common property were a Lot. Additional recorded covenants applicable to any Neighborhood may establish more stringent requirements for insurance and more stringent standards for rebuilding or reconstructing structures on the Lots within such Neighborhood and for clearing and maintaining the Lots in the event the structures are not rebuilt or reconstructed.

## **ARTICLE 7: ANNEXATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF PROPERTY**

7.1. Annexation by Declarant. Until twenty-five (25) years after the recording of this Declaration in the Public Records, Declarant may from time to time unilaterally subject to the provisions of this Declaration all or any portion of the Additional Property. The Declarant may transfer or assign this right to annex property, provided that the transferee or assignee is the developer of at least a portion of the real property described in Exhibits "A" or "B" and that such transfer is memorialized in a written, recorded instrument executed by Declarant.

Such annexation shall be accomplished by filing a Supplemental Declaration in the Public Records describing the property being annexed. Such Supplemental Declaration shall not require the consent of Voting Delegates, but shall require the consent of the owner of such property, 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 or any successor to annex or develop any of the Additional Property in any manner whatsoever.

7.2. Annexation by Membership. The Association may annex any real property to the provisions of this Declaration with the consent of the owner of such property, the affirmative vote of Voting Delegates representing a Majority of the Class "A" votes of the Association represented at a meeting duly called for such purpose, and, during the Development Period, the written consent of the Declarant.

Such annexation shall be accomplished by filing a Supplemental Declaration describing the property being annexed in the Public Records. Any such Supplemental Declaration shall be signed by the president and the secretary of the Association, and by the owner of the annexed property, and by the Declarant, if the Declarant's consent is required. Any such annexation shall be effective upon filing unless otherwise provided therein.

7.3. Annexation of Adjacent Developments. Adjacent to The Woodlands at Château Élan are three (3) separate single family residential developments known as "The Legends at Château Élan", "Executive Estates at Château Élan" and "Country Estates" (the "adjacent developments"). Each of the adjacent developments is governed by a separate declaration of covenants, conditions, restrictions and easements. Any adjacent development may be annexed to the provisions of this Declaration by amending the existing declaration governing the adjacent development in accordance with its terms to strike such declaration and to adopt this Declaration. Any such amendment to annex an adjacent development to this Declaration shall be filed in the Public Records and shall require the prior written consent of the Declarant during the Development Period and the president and the secretary of the Association thereafter. Such amendment may designate the adjacent development as a separate Neighborhood.

7.4. Withdrawal of Property. The Declarant reserves the right to amend this Declaration during the Development Period, for the purpose of removing any portion of the Properties from the coverage of this Declaration, provided such withdrawal is not contrary to the overall, uniform scheme of development for the Properties. Such amendment shall not require the consent of any Person other than the Owner of the property to be withdrawn, if not the Declarant. If the property is Common Area, the Association shall consent to such withdrawal.



7.5. Additional Covenants and Easements. The Declarant may unilaterally subject any portion of the Properties to additional covenants and easements, including covenants obligating the Association to maintain and insure such property on behalf of the Owners and obligating such Owners to pay the costs incurred by the Association through Neighborhood Assessments. Such additional covenants and easements shall be set forth in a Supplemental Declaration filed either concurrently with or after the annexation of the subject property, and shall require the written consent of the owner(s) of such property, if other than the Declarant. Any such Supplemental Declaration may supplement, create exceptions to, or otherwise modify the terms of this Declaration as it applies to the subject property in order to reflect the different character and intended use of such property.

7.6. Amendment. This Article shall not be amended during the Development Period without the prior written consent of Declarant.

## **ARTICLE 8: ASSESSMENTS**

8.1. Creation of Assessments. There are hereby created assessments for Association expenses as the Board may specifically authorize from time to time. There shall be four (4) types of assessments: (a) General Assessments to fund Common Expenses for the general benefit of all Lots; (b) Neighborhood Assessments for Neighborhood Expenses benefiting only Lots within a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods; (c) Special Assessments as described in Section 8.6; and (d) Specific Assessments as described in Section 8.7. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or entering into a recorded contract of sale for any portion of the Properties, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay these assessments.

All assessments and other charges, together with interest, late charges, costs of collection, and reasonable attorneys fees, shall be a charge and continuing lien upon each Lot against which the assessment or charge is made until paid, as more particularly provided in Section 8.8. Each such assessment or charge, together with interest, late charges, costs, and reasonable attorneys fees, also shall be the personal obligation of the Person who was the Owner of such Lot at the time the assessment arose. Upon a transfer of title to a Lot, the grantee shall be jointly and severally liable for any assessments and other charges due at the time of conveyance. However, no first Mortgagee who obtains title to a Lot by exercising the remedies provided in its Mortgage shall be liable for unpaid assessments which accrued prior to such acquisition of title.

The Association shall, upon request, furnish to any Owner liable for any type of assessment a written statement signed by an Association officer or designee setting forth whether such assessment has been paid. Such statement shall be conclusive evidence of payment. The Association may require the advance payment of a reasonable processing fee for the issuance of such statement.

Assessments shall be paid in such manner and on such dates as the Board may establish which may include discounts for early payment or similar time/price differentials. The Board may require advance payment of assessments at closing of the transfer of title to a Lot and impose special requirements for Owners with a history of delinquent payment. If the Board so elects, assessments may be paid in two (2) or more installments. Unless the Board otherwise provides, the General Assessment and any Neighborhood Assessment shall be due and payable in advance on the first day of each fiscal year. If any Owner is delinquent in paying any assessments or other charges levied on his or her Lot, the Board may require any unpaid installments of all outstanding assessments to be paid in full immediately. Any assessment or installment thereof shall be considered delinquent on the fifteenth (15th) day following the due date unless otherwise specified by Board resolution.

No Owner may exempt himself or herself from liability for assessments by non-use of Common Area, including Exclusive Common Area reserved for such Owner's use, abandonment of his or her Lot, or any other means. The obligation to pay assessments is a separate and independent covenant on the part of each Owner. No diminution or abatement of assessments or set-off shall be claimed or allowed for any alleged failure of the Association or Board to take some action or perform some function required of it, or

for inconvenience or discomfort arising from the making of repairs or improvements, or from any other action it takes.

The Association is specifically authorized to enter into subsidy contracts or contracts for “in kind” contribution of services, materials, or a combination of services and materials with the Declarant or other entities for payment of Common Expenses.

8.2. Declarant’s Obligation for Assessments. During the Class “B” Control Period, the Declarant may annually elect to pay either (a) an amount equal to the assessments on all of its unsold Lots, notwithstanding the commencement date set forth in Section 8.9; or (b) the difference between the amount of assessments levied on all other Lots subject to assessment and the amount of actual expenditures by the Association during the fiscal year. Unless the Declarant otherwise notifies the Board in writing prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Declarant shall be deemed to have elected to continue paying on the same basis as during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The Declarant’s obligation hereunder may be satisfied in the form of cash or by “in kind” contributions of services or materials, or by a combination of these. After termination of the Class “B” Control Period, the Declarant shall pay assessments on any unsold Lots in the same manner as any other Owner.

8.3. Computation of General Assessments. At least thirty (30) Days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a budget covering the estimated Common Expenses during the coming year, which may include a contribution to establish a reserve fund in accordance with a budget separately prepared as provided in Section 8.5.

General Assessments shall be levied equally against all Lots subject to assessment. The assessment rate shall be set at a level which is reasonably expected to produce total income for the Association equal to the total budgeted Common Expenses, including reserves.

In determining the total funds to be generated through the levy of General Assessments, the Board, in its discretion, may consider other sources of funds available to the Association, including any surplus from prior years, any assessment income expected to be generated from any additional Lots reasonably anticipated to become subject to assessment during the fiscal year, and any income expected to be generated from any Cost Sharing Agreement.

During the Class “B” Control Period, the Declarant may, but shall not be obligated to, reduce the General Assessment for any fiscal year by payment of a subsidy and/or contributions of services and materials (in addition to any amounts paid by Declarant under Section 8.2), which may be treated as either a contribution or an advance against future assessments due from the Declarant, or a loan, in the Declarant’s discretion. Any such anticipated payment or contribution by the Declarant shall be disclosed as a line item in the Common Expense budget. Payments by the Declarant in any year shall under no circumstances obligate the Declarant to continue such payments in future years, unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between the Association and the Declarant.

The Board shall send a copy of the budget and notice of the amount of the General Assessment for the following year to each Owner at least thirty (30) Days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year for which it is to be effective. Such budget and assessment shall become effective unless disapproved at a meeting by Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total Class “A” votes in the Association and, during the Development Period, by the Declarant. There shall be no obligation to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the budget except on petition of the Voting Delegates as provided for special meetings in Section 2.4 of the By-Laws, which petition must be presented to the Board within twenty (20) Days after delivery of the notice of assessments. If a meeting is requested, assessments pursuant to such proposed budget shall not become effective until after such meeting is held, provided such assessments shall be retroactive to the original effective date of the budget if the budget is not disapproved at such meeting.

If the proposed budget is disapproved or the Board fails for any reason to determine the budget for any year, then until such time as a budget is determined, the budget in effect for the immediately preceding year shall continue for the current year. The Board shall send a copy of the revised budget to each Owner at least thirty (30) Days prior to its becoming effective. The revised budget shall become effective unless disapproved in accordance with the above procedure.

8.4. Computation of Neighborhood Assessments. At least thirty (30) Days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a separate budget covering the estimated Neighborhood Expenses for each Neighborhood on whose behalf Neighborhood Expenses are expected to be incurred during the coming year. The Board shall be entitled to set such budget only to the extent that this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, or the By-Laws specifically authorizes the Board to assess certain costs as a Neighborhood Assessment. Any Neighborhood may request that additional services or a higher level of services be provided by the Association and, upon approval of Owners in accordance with Section 3.3(a), any additional costs shall be added to such budget. Such budget may include a contribution establishing a reserve fund for repair and replacement of capital items maintained as a Neighborhood Expense, if any, within the Neighborhood. Neighborhood Expenses shall be allocated equally among all Lots within the Neighborhood(s) benefited thereby and levied as a Neighborhood Assessment.

The Board shall send a copy of such budget and notice of the amount of the Neighborhood Assessment for the coming year to be delivered to each Owner of a Lot in the Neighborhood at least thirty (30) Days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Such budget and assessment shall become effective unless disapproved by Owners of a Majority of the Lots in the Neighborhood to which the Neighborhood Assessment applies and, during the Development Period, by the Declarant. There shall be no obligation to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the budget except on petition of Owners of at least ten percent (10%) of the Lots in such Neighborhood. This right to disapprove shall apply only to those line items in the Neighborhood budget which are attributable to services requested by the Neighborhood. If a meeting is requested, assessments pursuant to such proposed budget shall not become effective until after such meeting is held, provided such assessments shall be retroactive to the original effective date of the budget if the budget is not disapproved at such meeting.

If the Owners within any Neighborhood disapprove any line item of a Neighborhood budget, the Association shall not be obligated to provide the services anticipated to be funded by such line item of the budget. If the Board fails for any reason to determine a Neighborhood budget for any year, then until such time as a budget is determined, the budget in effect for the immediately preceding year shall continue for the current year.

8.5. Reserve Budget. The Board may, in its sole discretion, prepare reserve budgets for both general and Neighborhood purposes which take into account the number and nature of replaceable assets within the Area of Common Responsibility, the expected life of each asset, and the expected repair or replacement cost. The Board shall include in the general and Neighborhood budgets reserve amounts sufficient to meet the projected needs of the Association.

8.6. Special Assessments. In addition to other authorized assessments, the Association may levy Special Assessments from time to time to cover unbudgeted expenses or expenses in excess of those budgeted. Any such Special Assessment may be levied against all Lots, if such Special Assessment is for Common Expenses or against the Lots within any Neighborhood if such Special Assessment is for Neighborhood Expenses. Special Assessments shall be allocated equally among all Lots subject to such Special Assessment. Any Special Assessment shall become effective unless disapproved at a meeting by Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total Class "A" votes allocated to Lots which will be subject to such Special Assessment and, during the Development Period, by the Declarant. There shall be no obligation to call a meeting for the purpose of considering any Special Assessment except on petition of the Voting Delegates as provided for special meetings in Section 2.4 of

the By-Laws, which petition must be presented to the Board within twenty (20) Days after delivery of the notice of such Special Assessment. Special Assessments shall be payable in such manner and at such times as determined by the Board, and may be payable in installments extending beyond the fiscal year in which the Special Assessment is approved.

8.7. Specific Assessments. The Association shall have the power to levy Specific Assessments against a particular Lot or Lots as follows:

(a) to cover the costs, including overhead and administrative costs, of providing benefits, items, or services to the Lot(s) or occupants thereof upon request of the Owner pursuant to a menu of special services, such as landscape maintenance, which the Board may offer to Owners and occupants which assessments may be levied in advance of the provision of the requested benefit, item or service as a deposit against charges to be incurred by the Owner;

(b) to cover the costs associated with maintenance, repair, replacement and insurance of any Exclusive Common Area assigned to one (1) or more Lots; and

(c) to cover costs incurred in bringing the Lot(s) into compliance with the terms of the Governing Documents, or costs incurred as a consequence of the conduct of the Owner or occupants of the Lot, their agents, contractors, employees, licensees, invitees, or guests.

In addition, fines levied by the Association pursuant to Section 4.3 shall constitute Specific Assessments.

The Association may also levy a Specific Assessment against the Lots within any Neighborhood to reimburse the Association for costs incurred in bringing the Neighborhood into compliance with the provisions of the Declaration, any applicable Supplemental Declaration, the Articles, the By-Laws, and rules; provided however, the Board shall give prior written notice to the Owners of Lots in, or the Voting Delegate representing, the Neighborhood and an opportunity for such Owners or Voting Delegate to be heard before levying any such assessment.

8.8. Lien for Assessments. The Association shall have a lien against each Lot to secure payment of assessments and other charges, as well as interest at a rate to be set by the Board (subject to the maximum interest rate limitations of Georgia law), late charges in such amount as the Board may establish (subject to the limitations of Georgia law), costs of collection and reasonable attorneys fees. Such lien shall be superior to all other liens, except (a) the liens of all taxes, bonds, assessments, and other levies which by law would be superior, and (b) the lien or charge of any first Mortgage of record (meaning any recorded Mortgage with first priority over other Mortgages) made in good faith and for value. Such lien may be enforced by suit, judgment, and judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure.

The Declarant or the Association may bid for the Lot at the foreclosure sale and acquire, hold, lease, mortgage, and convey the Lot. While a Lot is owned by the Association following foreclosure: (a) no right to vote shall be exercised on its behalf; (b) no assessment shall be levied on it; and (c) each other Lot shall be charged, in addition to its usual assessment, its pro rata share of the assessment allocated to the Lot owned by the Association. The Association may sue for unpaid assessments and other charges authorized hereunder without foreclosing or waiving the lien securing the same.

The sale or transfer of any Lot shall not affect the assessment lien or relieve such Lot from the lien for any subsequent assessments. However, the sale or transfer of any Lot pursuant to foreclosure of the first Mortgage shall extinguish the lien as to any installments of such assessments due prior to such sale or transfer. A Mortgagee or other purchaser of a Lot who obtains title pursuant to foreclosure of the Mortgage shall not be personally liable for assessments on such Lot due prior to such acquisition of title. Such unpaid assessments shall be deemed to be Common Expenses collectible from Owners of all Lots subject to assessment under Section 8.9, including such acquirer, its successors and assigns.

All other Persons acquiring liens or encumbrances on any Lot after this Declaration has been recorded shall be deemed to consent that such liens or encumbrances shall be inferior to future liens for assessments, as provided herein, whether or not prior consent is specifically set forth in the instruments creating such liens or encumbrances.

8.9. Date of Commencement of Assessments. The obligation to pay assessments shall commence as to each Lot on the date on which the Lot is conveyed to a Person other than the Declarant or a Builder. With respect to any Lot owned by a Builder, assessments shall commence upon the earlier of (a) actual occupancy of such Lot, excluding any period that such Lot is being used exclusively as a model home; or (b) one (1) year after conveyance of such Lot to the Builder.

The first annual General Assessment and Neighborhood Assessment, if any, levied on each Lot shall be adjusted according to the number of days remaining in the fiscal year at the time assessments commence on the Lot.

8.10. Failure to Assess. Failure of the Board to establish assessment amounts or rates or to deliver or mail each Owner an assessment notice shall not be deemed a waiver, modification, or a release of any Owner from the obligation to pay assessments. In such event, each Owner shall continue to pay General Assessments and Neighborhood Assessments on the same basis as during the last year for which an assessment was made, if any, until a new assessment is levied, at which time the Association may retroactively assess any shortfalls in collections.

8.11. Exempt Property. The following property shall be exempt from payment of General Assessments, Neighborhood Assessments, and Special Assessments:

(a) All Common Area and such portions of the property owned by the Declarant as are included in the Area of Common Responsibility pursuant to Section 5.1;

(b) Any property dedicated to and accepted by any governmental authority or public utility; and

(c) Property owned by any Neighborhood Association, or by the members of a Neighborhood Association as tenants-in-common, for the common use and enjoyment of all members within the Neighborhood.

8.12. Capitalization of Association. Upon acquisition of record title to a Lot by the first Owner thereof other than the Declarant or a Builder or upon occupancy of a Lot by a Person other than a Builder or Declarant, a contribution shall be made by or on behalf of the purchaser or occupant to the working capital of the Association in an amount equal to the greater of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or one-sixth (1/6th) of the annual General Assessment per Lot for that year. This amount shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, the annual General Assessment and shall not be considered an advance payment of such assessment. This amount shall be collected and disbursed to the Association at closing of the purchase and sale of the Lot to the first Owner, or if the obligation to make the capital contribution arises by virtue of occupancy of a Lot by a Person other than a Builder or Declarant, the capital contribution shall be paid immediately upon demand by the Association. Capital contributions shall be used by the Association in covering operating expenses and other expenses incurred by the Association pursuant to the Governing Documents.

## **ARTICLE 9: ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS**

9.1. General. No exterior structure or improvement, as described in Section 9.5, shall be placed, erected, installed or made upon any Lot or adjacent to any Lot where the purpose of the structure is to service such Lot except in compliance with this Article, and with the prior written approval of the appropriate reviewing body under Section 9.2, unless exempted from the application and approval requirements pursuant to Section 9.3.

All dwellings constructed on any portion of the Properties shall be designed by and built in accordance with the plans and specifications of a licensed architect or other qualified building design unless otherwise approved by the DRB in its sole discretion.

This Article shall not apply to the activities of the Declarant, nor to improvements to the Common Area by or on behalf of the Association or to improvements to any Private Amenity. This Article may not be amended during the Development Period without the Declarant's written consent.

9.2. Architectural Review. Responsibility for administration of the Design Standards and review of all applications for construction and modifications under this Article shall be handled by the reviewing bodies described below, the members of which need not be Members of the Association or representatives of Members, and may, but need not, include architects, landscape architects, engineers or similar professionals, whose compensation, if any, shall be established from time to time by the DRB. The reviewing bodies may establish and charge reasonable fees for review of applications hereunder and may require such fees to be paid in full prior to review of any application. Such fees may include the reasonable costs incurred in having any application reviewed by architects, engineers or other professionals.

(a) Design Review Board. The DRB shall consist of one (1), but not more than five (5), Persons and shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all construction on any portion of the Properties. Until one hundred percent (100%) of the Properties have been developed and conveyed to Owners other than Builders and the Declarant and initial construction on each Lot has been completed in accordance with the Design Standards, the Declarant retains the right to appoint all members of the DRB who shall serve at the Declarant's discretion. There shall be no surrender of this right prior to that time except in a written instrument in recordable form executed by Declarant. Upon the expiration or surrender of such right, the Board shall appoint the members of the DRB, who shall thereafter serve and may be removed in the Board's discretion.

(b) Modifications Committee. The Board of Directors may establish a Modifications Committee ("MC") to consist of at least three (3) and no more than five (5) Persons, all of whom shall be appointed by and shall serve at the discretion of the Board. If established, the MC shall have jurisdiction over modifications, additions, or alterations of Lots, including existing structures and landscaping, after completion of initial construction on the Lot. The MC may delegate its authority as to a particular Neighborhood to the Neighborhood Association, if any, so long as the MC has determined that such Neighborhood Association has in force review and enforcement practices, procedures, and appropriate standards at least equal to those of the MC. Such delegation may be revoked and jurisdiction reassumed at any time by written notice. The DRB shall have the right to veto any action taken by the MC or a Neighborhood Association which the DRB determines, in its sole discretion, to be inconsistent with the guidelines promulgated by the DRB. Upon expiration of the Declarant's right to appoint the members of the DRB, the MC may be eliminated and its duties assumed by the DRB.

9.3. Standards and Procedures.

(a) Design Standards. The Declarant shall prepare the initial Design Standards for the Properties. The Design Standards may contain general provisions applicable to all of the Properties, as well as specific provisions which vary according to land use and from one (1) portion of the Properties to another depending upon the location, unique characteristics, and intended use. For example, by way of illustration but not limitation, the Design Standards may impose stricter requirements on those portions of the Properties adjacent to or visible from any Private Amenity or any pond or other body of water. The Design Standards are intended to provide guidance to Owners and Builders regarding matters of particular concern to the reviewing bodies in considering applications hereunder. The Design Standards are not the exclusive basis for decisions of the reviewing bodies and compliance with the Design Standards does not guarantee approval of any application.

The DRB shall adopt the Design Standards at its initial organizational meeting and thereafter shall have sole and full authority to amend them. Any amendments to the Design Standards shall be prospective only and shall not apply to require modifications to or removal of structures previously approved once the approved construction or modification has commenced. There shall be no limitation on the scope of amendments to the Design Standards; the DRB is expressly authorized to amend the Design Standards to remove requirements previously imposed or otherwise to make the Design Standards less restrictive.

The DRB shall make the Design Standards available to Owners and Builders who seek to engage in development or construction within the Properties.

The MC may promulgate detailed procedures and standards governing its area of responsibility, consistent with those set forth in the Design Standards and subject to review and approval or disapproval by the DRB. Any architectural guidelines and standards adopted by the MC may be more restrictive than the Design Standards, but under no circumstances shall they be inconsistent with the Design Standards.

(b) Procedures. Plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, color, size, materials, and location of all proposed structures and improvements shall be submitted to the appropriate reviewing body for review and approval (or disapproval). In addition, information concerning irrigation systems, drainage, lighting, landscaping and other features of proposed construction shall be submitted as applicable and as required by the Design Standards. In reviewing each submission, the reviewing bodies may consider the quality of workmanship and design, harmony of external design with existing structures, and location in relation to surrounding structures, topography, and finish grade elevation, among other considerations. Decisions may be based solely on aesthetic considerations. Each Owner acknowledges that opinions on aesthetic matters are subjective and may vary over time.

In the event that the DRB or MC fails to approve or to disapprove any application within thirty (30) Days after submission of all information and materials reasonably requested, the application shall be deemed approved. However, no approval, whether expressly granted or deemed granted pursuant to the foregoing, shall be inconsistent with the Design Standards unless a variance has been granted in writing by the DRB pursuant to Section 9.8.

Notwithstanding the above, the DRB by resolution may exempt certain activities from the application and approval requirements of this Article, provided such activities are undertaken in strict compliance with the requirements of such resolution. Any Owner may remodel, paint or redecorate the interior of structures on his or her Lot without approval. However, modifications to the interior of screened porches, patios, and similar portions of a Lot visible from outside the structures on the Lot shall be subject to approval.

Approval by the DRB or MC shall be effective for a period of one (1) year from the date the approval is given. If work has not commenced within the one (1) year period, the approval shall expire, and no work shall thereafter commence without resubmitting plans to the appropriate reviewing body.

9.4. Architect, Builder, and General Contractor Approval. In order to ensure that appropriate standards of construction are maintained throughout the Properties, the DRB may require that all architects, Builders and general contractors shall be approved by the DRB prior to engaging in any construction activities. The DRB may implement an approval process utilizing established criteria and requiring the submission of a written application for approval.

Approval of architects, Builders and contractors may not be construed as a recommendation of a specific architect, Builder or contractor by the DRB or the Declarant, nor a guarantee or endorsement of the work of such architect, Builder or contractor. Once approved (unless such approval is withdrawn by the DRB), an approved architect, Builder or contractor shall not be required to re-submit to the approval process.

9.5. Restrictions.

(a) Exterior Structures and Improvements. Exterior structures and improvements shall include, but shall not be limited to, staking, clearing, excavation, grading and other site work; installation of utility lines or drainage improvements; initial construction of any dwelling or accessory building; exterior alteration of existing improvements; installation or replacement of mailboxes; basketball hoops; swing sets and similar sports and play equipment; clotheslines; garbage cans; wood piles; swimming pools; gazebos or playhouses; window air-conditioning units or fans; hot tubs; solar panels; antennas; satellite dishes or any other apparatus for the transmission or reception of television, radio, satellite, or other signals of any kind; hedges, walls, dog runs, animal pens, or fences of any kind, including invisible fences; artificial vegetation or sculpture; and planting or removal of landscaping materials.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Declarant and the Association shall regulate antennas, satellite dishes, or any other apparatus for the transmission or reception of television, radio, satellite or other signals of any kind only in strict compliance with all federal laws and regulations.

(b) In addition to the foregoing activities requiring prior approval, the following items are strictly regulated, and the reviewing body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to prohibit or restrict these items within the Properties. Each Owner must strictly comply with the terms of this Section unless approval or waiver in writing is obtained from the appropriate reviewing body. The DRB may, but is not required to, adopt additional specific guidelines as part of the Design Standards.

(i) Signs. "For sale" and "for rent" signs are prohibited within the Properties. In addition, no sign of any kind shall be erected by an Owner or occupant without the prior written consent of the appropriate reviewing body, except (1) such signs as may be required by legal proceedings; and (2) not more than one (1) professional security sign of such size deemed reasonable by the DRB in its sole discretion. Unless in compliance with this Section, no signs shall be posted or erected by any Owner or occupant within any portion of the Properties, including the Common Area, any Lot, any structure or dwelling located on the Common Area or any Lot (if such sign would be visible from the exterior of such structure or dwelling as determined in the reviewing body's sole discretion) or from any Private Amenity.

The Declarant and the DRB reserve the right to prohibit signs and to restrict the size, content, color, lettering, design and placement of any approved signs. All signs must be professionally prepared. This provision shall not apply to entry, directional, or other signs installed by the Declarant or its duly authorized agent as may be necessary or convenient for the marketing and development of the Properties.

(ii) Tree Removal. No trees that are more than four (4) inches in diameter at a point two (2) feet above the ground shall be removed without the prior written consent of the appropriate reviewing body; provided however, any trees, regardless of their diameter, that are located within ten (10) feet of a drainage area, a residence, a driveway, or a sidewalk or any diseased or dead trees needing to be removed to promote the growth of other trees or for safety reasons may be removed without the written consent of the appropriate reviewing body. The appropriate reviewing body may adopt or impose requirements for, or condition approval of, tree removal upon the replacement of any tree removed.

(iii) Lighting. Exterior lighting visible from the street shall not be permitted except for: (1) approved lighting as originally installed on a Lot; (2) one (1) approved decorative post light; (3) pathway lighting; (4) street lights in conformity with an established street lighting program for the Properties; (5) seasonal decorative lights during the usual and common season; (6) front house illumination of model homes; or (7) any additional lighting as may be approved by the appropriate reviewing body.

(iv) Temporary or Detached Structures. Except as may be permitted by the DRB during initial construction, or the MC thereafter, no temporary house, dwelling, garage or



outbuilding shall be placed or erected on any Lot. Except as provided in Section 10.7(b), no mobile home, trailer home, travel trailer, camper or recreational vehicle shall be stored, parked or otherwise allowed to be placed on a Lot as a temporary or permanent dwelling.

(v) Utility Lines. Overhead utility lines, including lines for cable television, are not permitted except for temporary lines as required during construction and lines installed by or at the request of Declarant.

(vi) Standard Mailboxes. The DRB reserves the right to approve the style, design, color and location prior to any original installation or replacement of any mailbox and may require the installation of a standard mailbox which may vary from one Neighborhood to another. Application shall be made to the DRB prior to installation or replacement. By accepting a deed to a Lot, each Owner agrees that the DRB may remove any nonapproved mailbox in a reasonable manner; all costs for same shall be paid by Owner of such Lot; and all claims for damages caused by the DRB are waived.

(vii) Minimum Dwelling Size. The Design Standards may establish a minimum square footage of enclosed, heated and cooled living space for residential dwellings, which minimum may vary from one (1) Neighborhood to another. Upon written request of an Owner, the DRB may waive the minimum square footage requirement if, in the DRB's sole discretion, the resulting appearance of such residential dwelling will preserve and conform to the overall appearance, scheme, design, value and quality within the Properties.

(viii) Water Facilities. No individual water supply system shall be permitted within the Properties.

9.6. Construction Period. After commencement of construction, each Owner shall diligently continue construction to complete such construction in a timely manner. The initial construction of all structures must be completed within one (1) year after commencement of construction, unless extended by the DRB in its sole discretion. All other construction shall be completed within the time limits established by the appropriate reviewing body at the time the project is approved by the reviewing body.

For the purposes of this Section, commencement of construction shall mean that (a) all plans for such construction have been approved by the DRB; (b) a building permit has been issued for the Lot by the appropriate jurisdiction; and (c) construction of a structure has physically commenced beyond site preparation. Completion of a structure shall mean that a certificate of occupancy has been issued by the appropriate jurisdiction for the Lot.

9.7. No Waiver of Future Approvals. Approval of proposals, plans and specifications, or drawings for any work done or proposed, or in connection with any other matter requiring approval, shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to withhold approval as to any similar proposals, plans and specifications, drawings, or other matters subsequently or additionally submitted for approval.

9.8. Variance. The DRB may authorize variances from compliance with any of its guidelines and procedures when circumstances such as topography, natural obstructions, hardship, or aesthetic or environmental considerations require, but only in accordance with duly adopted rules and regulations. Such variances may only be granted, however, when unique circumstances dictate and no variance shall (a) be effective unless in writing; (b) be contrary to this Declaration; or (c) prevent the DRB from denying a variance in other circumstances. For purposes of this Section, the inability to obtain approval of any governmental agency, the issuance of any permit, or the terms of any financing shall not be considered a hardship warranting a variance.

9.9. Limitation of Liability. The standards and procedures established pursuant to this Article are intended to provide a mechanism for maintaining and enhancing the overall aesthetics of the Properties only, and shall not create any duty to any Person. Review and approval of any application

pursuant to this Article is made on the basis of aesthetic considerations only and neither the Declarant, the Association, the DRB nor the MC shall bear any responsibility for ensuring the structural integrity or soundness of approved construction or modifications, the adequacy of soils or drainage, nor for ensuring compliance with building codes and other governmental requirements. Neither the Declarant, the Association, the Board, the DRB or MC or any committee, or member of any of the foregoing shall be held liable for any injury, damages, or loss arising out of the manner or quality of approved construction on or modifications to any Lot. In all matters, the committees and their members shall be defended and indemnified by the Association as provided in Section 4.6.

9.10. Enforcement. The Declarant, any member of the DRB, the MC or the Board, or the representatives of each shall have the right, during reasonable hours and after reasonable notice, to enter upon any Lot to inspect for the purpose of ascertaining whether any structure or improvement is in violation of this Article. Any structure, improvement or landscaping placed or made in violation of this Article shall be deemed to be nonconforming. Upon written request from the DRB or MC, Owners shall, at their own cost and expense, remove such structure or improvement and restore the property to substantially the same condition as existed prior to the nonconforming work. Should an Owner fail to remove and restore the property as required, any authorized agent of Declarant, the DRB, MC or the Board shall have the right to enter the property, remove the violation, and restore the property to substantially the same condition as previously existed. Entry for such purposes and in compliance with this Section shall not constitute a trespass. In addition, the Board may enforce the decisions of the Declarant, the DRB and the MC by any means of enforcement described in Section 4.3. All costs, together with the interest at the maximum rate then allowed by law, may be assessed against the benefited Lot and collected as a Specific Assessment.

Unless otherwise specified in writing by the committee granting approval, all approvals granted hereunder shall be deemed conditioned upon completion of all elements of the approved work and all work previously approved with respect to the same Lot, unless approval to modify any application has been obtained. In the event that any Person fails to commence and diligently pursue to completion all approved work, the Association shall be authorized, after notice to the Owner of the Lot and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with the By-Laws, to enter upon the Lot and remove or complete any incomplete work and to assess all costs incurred against the Lot and the Owner thereof as a Specific Assessment.

Neither the DRB, MC or any member of the foregoing nor the Association, the Declarant, or their members, officers or directors shall be held liable to any Person for exercising the rights granted by this Article. Any contractor, subcontractor, agent, employee, or other invitee of an Owner who fails to comply with the terms and provisions of this Article or the Design Standards may be excluded by the DRB from the Properties, subject to the notice and hearing procedures contained in the By-Laws.

In addition to the foregoing, the Association shall have the authority and standing to pursue all legal and equitable remedies available to enforce the provisions of this Article and the decisions of the DRB and MC.

## **ARTICLE 10: USE RESTRICTIONS**

10.1. General. This Article sets out certain use restrictions which must be complied with by all Owners and occupants of any Lot. The Properties shall be used only for residential, recreational, and related purposes (which may include, without limitation, model homes, sales offices for Builders, an information center and a sales office for any real estate broker retained by the Declarant to assist in the sale of property described on Exhibits "A" or "B," offices for any property manager retained by the Association, business offices for the Declarant or the Association or related parking facilities) consistent with this Declaration and any Supplemental Declaration.

10.2. Rules and Regulations. In addition to the use restrictions set forth in this Article, the Board may, from time to time, without consent of the Members, promulgate, modify, or delete rules and regulations applicable to the Properties. Such rules shall be distributed to all Owners and occupants prior to the date that they are to become effective and shall thereafter be binding upon all Owners and occupants until and unless overruled, canceled, or modified in a regular or special meeting by Members holding a Majority of the Class "A" votes in the Association, and, during the Development Period, the written consent of the Declarant.

10.3. Occupants Bound. All provisions of the Declaration, By-Laws, and of any rules and regulations, use restrictions or Design Standards governing the conduct of Owners and establishing sanctions against Owners shall also apply to all occupants even though occupants are not specifically mentioned.

10.4. Leasing. Lots may be leased for residential purposes only. All leases shall require, without limitation, that the tenant acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Declaration, By-Laws, use restrictions, and rules and regulations of the Association. The lease shall also obligate the tenant to comply with the foregoing. The Board may require notice of any lease together with such additional information deemed necessary by the Board.

10.5. Residential Use. Lots may be used only for residential purposes of a single family and for ancillary business or home office uses. A business or home office use shall be considered ancillary so long as: (a) the existence or operation of the activity is not apparent or detectable by sight, sound, or smell from outside the Lot; (b) the activity conforms to all zoning requirements for the Properties; (c) the activity does not involve regular visitation of the Lot by clients, customers, suppliers, or other invitees or door-to-door solicitation of residents of the Properties; (d) the activity does not increase traffic or include frequent deliveries within the Properties; and (e) the activity is consistent with the residential character of the Properties and does not constitute a nuisance, or a hazardous or offensive use, or threaten the security or safety of other residents of the Properties, as may be determined in the sole discretion of the Board.

No other business, trade, or similar activity shall be conducted upon a Lot without the prior written consent of the Board. 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: (a) such activity is engaged in full or part-time, (b) such activity is intended to or does generate a profit, or (c) a license is required.

The leasing of a Lot shall not be considered a business or trade within the meaning of this Section. This Section shall not apply to any activity conducted by the Declarant or a Builder approved by the Declarant with respect to its development and sale of the Properties or its use of any Lots which it owns within the Properties.

No garage sale, moving sale, rummage sale, or similar activity shall be conducted upon a Lot without the prior written consent of the Board.

10.6. Occupancy of Unfinished Lots. No dwelling erected upon any Lot shall be occupied in any manner before commencement of construction or while in the course of construction, nor at any time prior to the dwelling being fully completed.

10.7. Vehicles.

(a) Automobiles and non-commercial trucks and vans shall be parked only in the garages or in the driveways, if any, serving the Lots unless otherwise approved by the DRB; provided however, the Declarant and/or the Association may designate certain on-street parking areas for visitors or guests subject to reasonable rules. No automobile or non-commercial truck or

van may be left upon any portion of the Properties, except in a garage, if it is unlicensed or if it is in a condition such that it is incapable of being operated upon the public highways. Such vehicle shall be considered a nuisance and may be removed from the Properties. No motorized vehicles shall be permitted on pathways or unpaved Common Area except for public safety vehicles authorized by the Board.

(b) Recreational vehicles shall be parked only in the garages, if any, serving the Lots or, with the prior written approval of the DRB, other hard-surfaced areas which are not visible from the street or Private Amenities; provided however, guests of an Owner or occupant may park a recreational vehicle on the driveway serving such Owner's or occupant's Lot for a period not to exceed seven (7) Days each calendar year. "Visibility" shall be determined by the DRB in its sole discretion. The term "recreational vehicles," as used herein, shall include, without limitation, motor homes, mobile homes, boats, "jet skis" or other watercraft, trailers, other towed vehicles, motorcycles, minibikes, scooters, go-carts, golf carts, campers, buses, commercial trucks and commercial vans. Any recreational vehicle parked or stored in violation of this provision in excess of seven (7) Days shall be considered a nuisance and may be removed from the Properties. The Declarant and/or the Association may designate certain parking areas within the Properties for recreational vehicles subject to reasonable rules and fees, if any.

(c) Service and delivery vehicles may be parked in the Properties during daylight hours for such periods of time as are reasonably necessary to provide service or to make a delivery within the Properties.

(d) All vehicles shall be subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the Board of Directors may adopt.

10.8. Animals and Pets. No animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind may be raised, bred, kept, or permitted on any Lot, with the exception of dogs, cats, or other usual and common household pets in reasonable number, as determined by the Board. No animals shall be kept, bred or maintained for commercial purposes without prior written Board approval. All pets shall be reasonably controlled by the owner whenever outside a Lot and shall be kept in such a manner as to not become a nuisance by barking or other acts. The owners of the pet shall be responsible for all of the pet's actions. Pets shall not be permitted on any golf course, in any pond, or within any Private Amenity. If, in the sole opinion of the Board, any animal becomes dangerous or an annoyance or nuisance in the Properties or to nearby property or destructive of wildlife, such animal shall be removed from the Properties. By way of explanation and not limitation, this Section may be enforced by exercising self-help rights provided in Section 4.3.

10.9. Nuisance. It shall be the responsibility of each Owner and occupant to prevent the development of any unclean, unhealthy, unsightly, or unkempt condition on his or her property. No property within the Properties shall be used, in whole or in part, for the storage of any property or thing that will cause such Lot to appear to be in an unclean or untidy condition or that will be obnoxious to the eye; nor shall any substance, thing, or material be kept that will emit foul or obnoxious odors or that will cause any noise or other condition that will or might disturb the peace, quiet, safety, comfort, or serenity of the occupants of surrounding property.

No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on within the Properties, nor shall anything be done tending to cause embarrassment, discomfort, annoyance, or nuisance to any Person using any property within the Properties. There shall not be maintained any plants or animals or device or thing of any sort whose activities or existence in any way is noxious, dangerous, unsightly, unpleasant, or of a nature as may diminish or destroy the enjoyment of the Properties. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, no speaker, horn, whistle, siren, bell, amplifier or other sound device, except such devices as may be used exclusively for security purposes or as approved by the DRB, shall be located, installed or maintained upon the exterior of any Lot unless required by law.

The reasonable and normal development, construction and sales activities conducted or permitted by the Declarant shall not be considered a nuisance or a disturbance of the quiet enjoyment of any Owner or occupant.

10.10. Storage of Materials, Garbage, Dumping, Etc. All garbage cans shall be located or screened so as to be concealed from view of neighboring streets and property. All rubbish, trash, and garbage shall be regularly removed and shall not be allowed to accumulate. There shall be no dumping of grass clippings, leaves or other debris; rubbish, trash or garbage; petroleum products, fertilizers, or other potentially hazardous or toxic substances in any drainage ditch, stream or pond, within the Properties, except that fertilizers may be applied to landscaping on Lots provided care is taken to minimize runoff. No lumber, metals, bulk materials, refuse, trash or other similar materials shall be kept, stored, or allowed to accumulate outside the buildings on any Lot, except as may be permitted during any period of construction of improvements to a Lot. No hazardous materials shall be treated, deposited, stored, disposed of or used in or on any Lot or the improvements thereon. "Hazardous materials" means materials, substances, gases, or vapors identified as hazardous, toxic, or radioactive by any applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations or ordinances.

Each Owner shall maintain its Lot in a neat and orderly condition throughout initial construction of a residential dwelling and not allow trash and debris from its activities to be carried by the wind or otherwise scattered within the Properties. Storage of construction materials on the Lot shall be subject to such conditions, rules, and regulations as may be set forth in the Design Standards. Each Owner shall keep roadways, easements, swales, and other portions of the Properties clear of silt, construction materials and trash from its activities at all times. Trash and debris during initial construction of a residential dwelling shall be contained in standard size dumpsters or other appropriate receptacles and removed regularly from Lots and shall not be buried or covered on the Lot. Any Lot on which construction is in progress may be policed prior to each weekend, and during the weekend all materials shall be neatly stacked or placed and any trash or waste materials shall be removed. In addition, Owners shall remove trash and debris from the Lot upon reasonable notice by Declarant in preparation for special events.

10.11. Combustible Liquid. There shall be no storage of gasoline, propane, heating or other fuels, except for a reasonable amount of fuel that may be stored in containers appropriate for such purpose on each Lot for emergency purposes and operation of lawn mowers and similar tools or equipment and except as may be approved in writing by the DRB. The Association shall be permitted to store fuel for operation of maintenance vehicles, generators and similar equipment.

10.12. Subdivision of Lot. No Lot shall be subdivided or its boundary lines changed after a subdivision plat including such Lot has been approved and filed in the Public Records without the Declarant's prior written consent. Declarant, however, hereby expressly reserves the right to replat any Lot or Lots which it owns. Any such division, boundary line change, or replatting shall not be in violation of the applicable subdivision and zoning regulations, if any.

10.13. Sight Distance at Intersections. All property located at street intersections or driveways shall be landscaped and improved so as to permit safe sight across such areas. No fence, wall, hedge or shrub shall be placed or permitted to remain where it would cause a traffic or sight problem.

10.14. Drainage and Grading.

(a) Catch basins and drainage areas are for the purpose of natural flow of water only. No improvements, obstructions or debris shall be placed in these areas. No Owner or occupant may obstruct or rechannel the drainage flows after location and installation of drainage swales, storm sewers, or storm drains.

(b) Each Owner shall be responsible for maintaining all drainage areas located on its Lot. Required maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, maintaining ground cover in drainage areas and removing any accumulated debris from catch basins and drainage areas.

(c) Each Owner shall be responsible for controlling the natural and man-made water flow from its Lot. No Owner shall be entitled to overburden the drainage areas or drainage system within any portion of the Properties or any Private Amenities with excessive water flow from its Lot. Owners shall be responsible for all remedial acts necessary to cure any unreasonable drainage flows from Lots, Neither the Association nor the Declarant bears any responsibility for remedial actions to any Lot.

(d) No Person shall alter the grading of any Lot without prior approval pursuant to Article 9 of this Declaration. The Declarant hereby reserves for itself and the Association a perpetual easement across the Properties for the purpose of altering drainage and water flow. The exercise of such an easement shall not materially diminish the value of or unreasonably interfere with the use of any Lot without the Owner's consent.

10.15. Irrigation. Owners shall not install irrigation systems which draw upon ground or surface waters nor from any ponds within the Properties. However, the Declarant and the Association shall have the right to draw water from such sources for the purpose of irrigating the Area of Common Responsibility. Any irrigation system installed on a Lot must draw, as its primary source, from the re-use quality water received from the Town of Braselton.

10.16. Streams. No streams which run across any Lot may be dammed, or the water there from impounded, diverted, or used for any purpose without the prior written consent of the Board, except that the Declarant shall have such rights as provided in Article 11.

10.17. Bodies of Water. All ponds and streams within the Properties shall be used only in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be adopted and published by the Board. Swimming, boating, fishing, and other active uses of ponds or other bodies of water within the Properties shall be prohibited. The Association shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury to any person or property arising out of the authorized or unauthorized use of ponds or streams within the Properties. Except as may be designated by the Declarant, no trails or pathways shall be established along the perimeter of any pond.

10.18. Wetlands. All areas designated on a recorded plat as "wetlands" shall be generally left in a natural state, and any proposed alteration of the wetlands must be in accordance with any restrictions or covenants recorded against such property and be approved by all appropriate regulatory bodies. Prior to any alteration of a Lot, the Owner shall determine if any portion thereof meets the requirements for designation as a regulatory wetland. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section, the Declarant, the Association, and the successors, assigns, affiliates and designees of each may conduct such activities as have been or may be permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or any successor thereof responsible for the regulation of wetlands.

10.19. Golf Course Areas. Owners, as well as their families, tenants, guests, invitees, and pets, shall refrain from any actions which would distract from the playing qualities of any golf course adjacent to the Properties. Such prohibited activities shall include, but shall not be limited to, burning materials where the smoke will cross the golf course property, maintenance of dogs or other pets which interfere with golf course play due to their loud barking or other actions, playing of loud radios, televisions, stereos or musical instruments, running, bicycling, skateboarding, walking or trespassing in any way on the golf course property, picking up balls or similar interference with play. In addition, no Person shall, by virtue of this Declaration, have any right to use any portion of any golf cart path system, including any portion thereof which may be situated upon Common Area, without the prior written approval of the owner of such golf course. This covenant is for the benefit of any golf course adjacent to the Properties and the owner thereof and persons playing golf on said golf courses and shall be enforceable by the owner of such golf course.

10.20. Nondisturbance Areas. The portion of each Lot located between the boundary line of the Lot that separates such Lot from any golf course to a line running parallel thereto being located twenty (20) feet into the interior of such Lot is designated as a “nondisturbance area”. Planting or other use of this area, any improvement of this area and removal of trees, landscaping, or other plantings in this area shall be prohibited except with the prior written consent of the Declarant and the owner of such golf course.

Owners may not grow nor permit to grow on Lots adjacent to any golf course varieties of grass or other vegetation which, in the opinion of the Declarant or the owner of any golf course, is inimical to any golf course grasses or vegetation. Such restriction on the growing of grasses or other vegetation shall expressly apply to the twenty (20) foot nondisturbance area described above. In no event shall any Owner use such nondisturbance area for storage of materials or equipment.

## **ARTICLE 11: EASEMENTS**

Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates, and declares the non-exclusive, perpetual easements set forth herein for the enjoyment of the Declarant, the Association, the Members, the Owners, and the owners of any Private Amenities, and their successors-in-title.

11.1. Easements of Encroachment. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, reciprocal, appurtenant easements of encroachment, and for maintenance and use of any permitted encroachment, between adjacent Lots, between each Lot and any adjacent Common Area, between Common Area and any adjacent Private Amenity, and between each Lot and any adjacent Private Amenity due to the unintentional placement or settling or shifting of the improvements constructed, reconstructed, or altered thereon (in accordance with the terms of these restrictions) to a distance of not more than three (3) feet, as measured from any point on the common boundary along a line perpendicular to such boundary. However, in no event shall an easement for encroachment exist if such encroachment occurred due to willful and knowing conduct on the part of, or with the knowledge and consent of, the Person claiming the benefit of such easement.

### 11.2. Easements for Utilities, Etc.

(a) Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, reciprocal, appurtenant easements, for itself during the Development Period, for the Association, and the designees of each (which may include, without limitation, any governmental or quasi-governmental entity and any utility company) perpetual non-exclusive easements upon, across, over, and under all of the Properties (but not through a structure, existing or proposed) to the extent reasonably necessary for the purpose of installing, constructing, monitoring, replacing, repairing, maintaining, operating and removing cable television systems, master television antenna systems, and other devices for sending or receiving data and/or other electronic signals; security and similar systems; roads, walkways, pathways and trails; ponds, wetlands, irrigation, and drainage systems; street lights and signage; and all utilities, including, but not limited to, water, sewer, telephone, gas, and electricity, and utility meters; and an easement for access of vehicular and pedestrian traffic over, across, and through the Properties, as necessary, to exercise the easements described above.

Declarant specifically grants to the local water supplier, sewer service provider, electric company, telephone company, and natural gas supplier the easements set forth herein across the Properties for ingress, egress, installation, reading, replacing, repairing, and maintaining utility lines, meters and boxes, as applicable.

(b) Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares for itself during the Development Period and its designees non-exclusive, perpetual, reciprocal, appurtenant easements, and the non-exclusive right and power to grant such specific easements as may be

necessary, in the sole discretion of Declarant, in connection with the orderly development of any property described on Exhibits "A" or "B."

(c) Any damage to a Lot resulting from the exercise of the easements described in subsections (a) and (b) of this Section shall promptly be repaired by, and at the expense of, the Person exercising the easement. The exercise of these easements shall not extend to permitting entry into the structures on any Lot, nor shall it unreasonably interfere with the use of any Lot, and except in an emergency, entry onto any Lot shall be made only after reasonable notice to the Owner or occupant.

(d) Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, reciprocal, appurtenant easements for itself and any municipality with jurisdiction over the Properties upon, across, over and under that portion of the Properties that is within seven (7) feet of any roadway in the event that such roads are ever to be maintained by such municipality.

(e) Declarant reserves unto itself the right, in the exercise of its sole discretion, upon the request of any Person holding, or intending to hold, an interest in the Properties, or at any other time, (i) to release all or any portion of the Properties from the burden, effect, and encumbrance of any of the easements granted or reserved under this Section, or (ii) to define the limits of any such easements.

11.3. Easement for Slope Control, Drainage and Waterway Maintenance. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant easements, for itself, the owner of any Private Amenity and the Association, and their respective representatives, successors and assigns, contractors and agents, over, across, under, through and upon each Lot for the purposes of:

(a) controlling soil erosion, including grading and planting with vegetation any areas of any Lot which are or may be subject to soil erosion;

(b) drainage of natural or man-made water flow and water areas from any portion of the Properties or any Private Amenity;

(c) changing, modifying or altering the natural flow of water, water courses or waterways on or adjacent to any Lot or Common Area;

(d) dredging, enlarging, reducing or maintaining any water areas or waterways within the Properties; and

(e) installing such pipes, lines, conduits or other equipment as may be necessary for slope control, drainage and waterway maintenance of any portion of the Properties or any Private Amenity.

11.4. Easements to Serve Additional Property. The Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant easements for itself and its duly authorized successors and assigns, including without limitation the owners of Private Amenities, successors-in-title, agents, representatives, and employees, successors, assigns, licensees, and mortgagees, an easement over the Common Area for the purposes of enjoyment, use, access, and development of the Additional Property, whether or not such property is made subject to this Declaration. This easement includes, but is not limited to, a right of ingress and egress over the Common Area for constriction of roads, for the posting of signs, and for connecting and installing utilities serving the Additional Property. Declarant agrees that it and its successors or assigns shall be responsible for any damage caused to the Common Area as a result of vehicular traffic connected with development of the Additional Property.

11.5. Easement for Entry. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant easements for the Association to enter upon any Lot for emergency, security, and safety reasons. Such right may be exercised by any member of the Board, the Association's officers, committee members, agents, employees and managers of the Association, and by all police



officers, fire fighters, ambulance personnel, and similar emergency personnel in the performance of their duties. Except in emergencies, entry onto a Lot shall be only during reasonable hours and after notice to and permission from the Owner. This easement includes the right to enter any Lot to cure any condition which may increase the possibility of fire, slope erosion, immediate risk of personal injury, or other hazard if an Owner fails or refuses to cure the condition within a reasonable time after request by the Board, but shall not authorize entry into any dwelling without permission of the Owner, except by emergency personnel acting in their official capacities. Entry under this Section shall not constitute a trespass.

11.6. Easements for Maintenance and Enforcement. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant rights and easements for the Association to enter all portions of the Properties, including each Lot, to (a) perform its maintenance responsibilities under Article 5, and (b) make inspections to ensure compliance with the Governing Documents. Except in emergencies, entry onto a Lot shall be only during reasonable hours. This easement shall be exercised with a minimum of interference to the quiet enjoyment to Owners' property, and any damage shall be repaired by the Association at its expense. Entry under this Section shall not constitute a trespass.

The Association also may enter a Lot to abate or remove, using such measures as may be reasonably necessary, any structure, thing or condition which violates the Governing Documents. All costs incurred, including reasonable attorneys fees, may be assessed against the violator as a Specific Assessment.

11.7. Landscape and Tree Preservation. There are hereby reserved to Declarant during the Development Period, the Association and the designees of each, non-exclusive easements for access, installation, pruning and other maintenance, removal and replacement of street trees and landscaping over those portions of the Properties lying adjacent to all roadways and consisting of a strip of land thirty (30) feet in width and running the entire length of, and on both sides of, all roadways ("Landscape Easement") and over such other portions of the Properties as are designated "Landscape and Access Easement" on the recorded plats of the Properties. Such easement shall include the right to disturb existing landscaping within the Landscape Easement, to dig holes and to temporarily pile dirt and plant material upon the Landscape Easement, provided the area is restored to a neat and attractive condition to the extent practical, as soon as reasonably possible after completion of the activities authorized hereunder. Nothing herein shall obligate the Declarant or the Association to undertake any of the activities which such easement authorizes. Except as may otherwise be provided in any written agreement executed by the Declarant, the Declarant may, but shall not be obligated to, install street trees and landscaping within such public rights-of-way and/or these Landscape Easements at its option, at such times and in such numbers and locations as it may deem appropriate in its sole discretion. These Landscape Easement areas shall not be disturbed by any Owner without prior approval in accordance with Article 9.

11.8. Easements for Pond Maintenance and Flood Water. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares for itself and its successors, assigns, and designees and the Association the nonexclusive perpetual, appurtenant right and easement, but not the obligation, to enter upon the ponds, streams, and wetlands located within the Area of Common Responsibility to (a) install, keep, maintain, and replace pumps and irrigation systems in order to provide water for the irrigation of any of the Area of Common Responsibility or any Private Amenity; (b) draw water from such sources for purposes or irrigation; (c) construct, maintain, and repair any wall, dam, or other structure retaining water; and (d) remove trash and other debris there from and fulfill maintenance responsibilities as provided in this Declaration. The Declarant, the Association, and their designees shall have an access easement over and across any of the Properties abutting or containing any portion of any pond, stream, or wetland to the extent reasonably necessary to exercise their rights under this Section.

Declarant further reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares for itself and its successors, assigns and designees, and the Association the non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant right and

easement of access and encroachment over the Common Area and Lots (but not the dwellings thereon) adjacent to or within twenty (20) feet of ponds, streams and wetlands in order to (a) temporarily flood and back water upon and maintain water over such portions of the Properties; (b) fill, drain, dredge, deepen, clean, fertilize, dye, and generally maintain the ponds, streams, and wetlands within the Area of Common Responsibility; (c) maintain and landscape the slopes and banks pertaining to such ponds, streams, and wetlands; (d) disturb existing landscaping; and (e) pile dirt and plant materials. All Persons entitled to exercise these easements shall use reasonable care in, and repair any damage resulting from the intentional exercise of such easements. All affected areas shall be restored to a neat and attractive condition to the extent practical, as soon as reasonably possible after completion of any construction or maintenance activities authorized in this Declaration. Nothing herein shall be construed to make Declarant or any other Person liable for damage resulting from flooding due to heavy rainfall or other natural disasters.

Declarant reserves unto itself the right, in the exercise of its sole discretion, upon the request of any Person holding, or intending to hold, an interest in the Properties, or at any other time, (a) to release all or any portion of the Properties from the burden, effect, and encumbrance of any of the easements granted or reserved under this Section, or (b) to define the limits of any such easements.

11.9. Lateral Support. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, reciprocal, appurtenant easements over every portion of the Common Area, every Lot, and any improvement which contributes to the lateral support of another portion of the Common Area, of another Lot, or of a Private Amenity shall be burdened with an easement for lateral support, and each shall also have the right to lateral support which shall be appurtenant to and pass with title to such property.

11.10. Easements for Private Amenities. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares for the owners of any Private Amenity the following non-exclusive, perpetual, reciprocal, appurtenant easements which shall benefit the Private Amenity.

(a) Every Lot and the Common Area and the common property of any Neighborhood Association adjacent to any Private Amenity are burdened with an easement permitting golf balls unintentionally to come upon such Common Area, Lots or common property of a Neighborhood and for golfers at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner to come upon the Common Area, common property of a Neighborhood, or the exterior portions of a Lot to retrieve errant golf balls; provided however, if any Lot is fenced or walled, the golfer shall seek the Owner's permission before entry. The existence of this easement shall not relieve golfers of liability for damage caused by errant golf balls. Under no circumstances shall any of the following Persons be held liable for any damage or injury resulting from any activity relating to a Private Amenity, including but not limited to, any errant golf balls or the exercise of this easement: Fountainhead Development Corp., Inc., the Declarant, or any successor Declarant; the Association or its Members (in their capacity as such); the owner(s) of the Private Amenities or their successors, successors-in-title, or assigns; any Builder or contractor (in their capacities as such); the golf course designer or builder; any officer, director, member, manager, or partner of any of the foregoing, or any officer, director, member or manager of any partner of any of the foregoing.

(b) The owner(s) of the Private Amenities, their respective successors and assigns, shall have a perpetual, exclusive easement of access over the Properties for the flight of golf balls resulting from inadvertent shots and for the purpose of retrieving golf balls from the Common Area and any Lot, lying reasonably within range of golf balls hit from any golf course within such Private Amenity.

(c) The owner of any Private Amenity within or adjacent to any portion of the Properties, its agents, successors and assigns, shall at all times have a right and non-exclusive easement of access and use over those portions of the Common Area reasonably necessary to the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of the Private Amenity.

(d) Declarant hereby reserves for itself, its successors and assigns and the Owner(s) of any Private Amenities over, across and upon each and every Lot, a twenty (20) foot easement as measured from the boundary line of the Lot that separates such Lot from any golf course to a line running parallel thereto being located twenty (20) feet into the interior of such Lot. Such easement may be used for the purposes of operation and maintenance of any golf course. By way of example and not limitation, such easement shall be for the purpose of authorizing entry onto such portions of the Lot to maintain or landscape the area encumbered by such easement. Such maintenance and landscaping shall include planting of grass, irrigation, fertilizer application, mowing and edging, and removal of any underbrush, trash, debris and trees of less than two (2) inches in diameter.

(e) There is hereby established for the benefit of the Private Amenities and their members (regardless of whether such members are Owners hereunder), guests, invitees, employees, agents, contractors, and designees, a right and nonexclusive easement of access and use over all roadways located within the Properties reasonably necessary to travel between the entrance to the Properties and the Private Amenities and over those portions of the Properties (whether Common Area or otherwise) reasonably necessary to the operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Private Amenities. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, members of the Private Amenities and guests and invitees of the Private Amenities shall have the right to park their vehicles on the roadways located within the Properties at reasonable times before, during, and after special events, tournaments and other similar functions held by or at the Private Amenities to the extent that the Private Amenities have insufficient parking to accommodate such vehicles. The Private Amenities, their guests, invitees, employees, agents, contractors and designees shall have the right to be admitted through any security gate, after receipt of clearance from the Private Amenity, without the payment of a fee or charge for ingress or egress, provided that the number of such persons permitted entrance to the Properties at any one time may be limited or otherwise restricted to the reasonable number of parking spaces available at the Private Amenity in order to avoid congestion and the unauthorized parking of vehicles.

(f) Any portion of the Properties immediately adjacent to the Private Amenities are hereby burdened with a non-exclusive easement in favor of the adjacent Private Amenities for overspray of water from the irrigation system serving the Private Amenities. Under no circumstances shall the Association or the owner(s) of the Private Amenities be held liable for any damage or injury resulting from such overspray or the exercise of this easement.

(g) The Declarant hereby reserves for itself, its successors and assigns, and may assign to the owner(s) of the Private Amenities, an easement and all rights to draw water from the ponds within or adjacent to the Properties for purposes of irrigation of the Private Amenities and for access to and the right to enter upon the ponds within or adjacent to the Properties, if any, for installation and maintenance of any irrigation systems.

(h) Any Private Amenity may include an extensive system of paths for use by pedestrians, golf carts and maintenance vehicles. To the extent such paths are not located on the Private Amenity, Declarant hereby reserves a nonexclusive easement appurtenant to the Private Amenity on, over, under and across the Properties as reasonably necessary for the installation, maintenance, repair, replacement, reconstruction, use and enjoyment of such paths; provided however, no path may encroach onto any Lot more than three (3) feet nor onto any Common Area (excluding the private streets) more than ten (10) feet. The owner(s) of the Private Amenities shall be solely responsible for maintaining such paths at its sole cost and expense, including those portions which are located on a private street, a Lot, or Common Area. The aforesaid easements are reserved for the benefit of the owner(s) of the Private Amenities, and their respective members, guests, invitees, employees, contractors, agents, and designees shall be appurtenant to the Private Amenity.

(i) The Declarant reserves the right to grant to the owner of any Private Amenity temporary and/or permanent easements through the Common Area to the extent necessary, as determined by the

Declarant, for construction, maintenance, repair, replacement or operation of the Private Amenity or for drainage and utilities to the Private Amenity.

(j) Declarant hereby establishes for the benefit of the owners of any Private Amenity and their employees, agents, contractors, and designees, a right and nonexclusive easement of access over any portion of the Properties which is contiguous to the respective Private Amenity, for the owner of the Private Amenity to enter such portions of the Properties, including each Lot, to perform maintenance. In the event that either an Owner or the Association fails to maintain any portions of the Properties which is contiguous to a Private Amenity in accordance with the requirements of this Declaration, the owner of such Private Amenity may perform the maintenance. The owner of the Private Amenity shall provide the owner of such property with at least thirty (30) days written notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure and correct any deficiency before exercising its rights hereunder. Any and all expenses incurred by the owner of the Private Amenity in performing such maintenance shall be paid by the owner of the property within thirty (30) days of its receipt of written demand therefore.

11.11. Easement for Special Events. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares for itself, its successors, assigns and designees a perpetual, non-exclusive, appurtenant easement over the Common Area for the purpose of conducting educational, cultural, entertainment, or sporting events, and other activities of general community interest at such locations and times as Declarant, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or other instrument conveying any interest in a Lot, acknowledges and agrees that the exercise of this easement may result in a temporary increase in traffic, noise, gathering of crowds, and related inconveniences, and each Owner agrees on behalf of itself and the occupants of its Lot to take no action, legal or otherwise, which would interfere with the exercise of such easement or to recover damages for or as the result of any such activities.

11.12. Rights to Stormwater Runoff, Effluent and Water Reclamation. Declarant hereby reserves for itself and its designees, including but not limited to the owner of any Private Amenity, all rights to ground water, surface water, storm water runoff, and effluent located or produced within the Properties, and each Owner agrees, by acceptance of a deed to a Lot, that Declarant shall retain all such rights. Such right shall include an easement over the Properties for access, and for installation and maintenance of facilities and equipment to capture and transport such water, runoff and effluent.

11.13. Liability for Use of Easements. No Owner shall have a claim or cause of action against the Declarant, its successors or assigns, including without limitation the owner(s) of any Private Amenities, arising out of the exercise or non-exercise of any easement reserved hereunder or shown on any subdivision plat for the Properties, except in cases of willful or wanton misconduct.

## **ARTICLE 12: MORTGAGEE PROVISIONS**

The following provisions are for the benefit of holders, insurers and guarantors of first Mortgages on Lots in the Properties. The provisions of this Article apply to both this Declaration and to the By-Laws, notwithstanding any other provisions contained therein.

12.1. Notices of Action. An institutional holder, insurer, or guarantor of a first Mortgage who provides a written request to the Association (such request to state the name and address of such holder, insurer, or guarantor and the street address of the Lot to which its Mortgage relates, thereby becoming an "Eligible Holder"), will be entitled to timely written notice of:

(a) Any condemnation loss or any casualty loss which affects a material portion of the Properties or which affects any Lot on which there is a first Mortgage held, insured, or guaranteed by such Eligible Holder;

(b) Any delinquency in the payment of assessments or charges owed by a Lot subject to the Mortgage of such Eligible Holder, where such delinquency has continued for a period of sixty (60) Days,

or any other violation of the Declaration or By-Laws relating to such Lot or the Owner or Occupant which is not cured within sixty (60) Days;

(c) Any lapse, cancellation, or material modification of any insurance policy maintained by the Association; or

(d) Any proposed action which would require the consent of a specified percentage of Eligible Holders pursuant to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation requirements.

12.2. No Priority. No provision of this Declaration or the By-Laws gives or shall be construed as giving any Owner or other party priority over any rights of the first Mortgagee of any Lot in the case of distribution to such Owner of insurance proceeds or condemnation awards for losses to or a taking of the Common Area.

12.3. Notice to Association. 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.

12.4. Failure of Mortgagee to Respond. Any Mortgagee who receives a written request from the Board to respond to or consent to any action shall be deemed to have approved such action if the Association does not receive a written response from the Mortgagee within thirty (30) Days of the date of the Association's request, provided such request is delivered to the Mortgagee by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.

12.5. Construction of Article 12. Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed to reduce the percentage vote that must otherwise be obtained under the Declaration, By-Laws, or Georgia law for any of the acts set out in this Article.

### **ARTICLE 13: DECLARANT'S RIGHTS**

13.1. Transfer or Assignment. Any or all of the special rights and obligations of the Declarant set forth in the Governing Documents may be transferred or assigned in whole or in part to the Association or to other Persons, provided that the transfer shall not reduce an obligation nor enlarge a right beyond that which the Declarant has under this Declaration or the By-Laws. Upon any such transfer, the Declarant shall be automatically released from any and all liability arising with respect to such transferred rights and obligations. No such transfer or assignment shall be effective unless it is in a written instrument signed by the Declarant and duly recorded in the Public Records.

13.2. Development and Sales. The Declarant and Builders authorized by Declarant may maintain and carry on the Properties such activities as, in the sole opinion of the Declarant, may be reasonably required, convenient, or incidental to the development of the Properties and/or the construction or sale of Lots, such as sales activities, tournaments, charitable events, and promotional events, and restrict Members from using the Common Area during such activities. Such activities shall be conducted in a manner to minimize (to the extent reasonably possible) any substantial interference with the Members' use and enjoyment of the Common Area. In the event that any such activity necessitates exclusion of Owners from Common Areas, such activities shall not exceed seven (7) consecutive Days. The Declarant and authorized Builders shall have easements over the Properties for access, ingress and conducting such activities.

In addition, the Declarant and Builders authorized by Declarant may establish within the Properties, including any clubhouse, such facilities as, in the sole opinion of the Declarant, may be reasonably required, convenient, or incidental to the development of the Properties and/or the construction or sale of Lots, including, but not limited to, business offices, signs, model units, tents, sales offices, sales centers and related parking facilities. During the Development Period, Owners may be excluded from use of all or a portion of such facilities in the Declarant's sole discretion. The Declarant and authorized Builders shall have easements over the Properties for access, ingress, and egress and use of such facilities.

Declarant may permit the use of any facilities situated on the Common Area by Persons other than Owners without the payment of any use fees.

13.3. Improvements to Common Areas. The Declarant and its employees, agents and designees shall also have a right and easement over and upon all of the Common Area for the purpose of making, constructing and installing such improvements to the Common Area as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion.

13.4. Additional Covenants. No Person shall record any declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions, declaration of condominium, easements, or similar instrument affecting any portion of the Properties without Declarant's review and written consent. Any attempted recordation without such consent shall result in such instrument being void and of no force and effect unless subsequently approved by written consent signed by the Declarant and recorded in the Public Records. No such instrument recorded by any Person, other than the Declarant pursuant to Section 7.5, may conflict with the Declaration, By-Laws or Articles.

13.5. Amendments. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this Declaration, no amendment to or modification of any use restrictions and rules or Design Standards made after termination of the Class "B" Control Period shall be effective without prior notice to and the written consent of the Declarant, during the Development Period. This Article may not be amended without the written consent of the Declarant. The rights contained in this Article shall terminate upon the earlier of (a) twenty-five (25) years from the date this Declaration is recorded, or (b) upon recording by Declarant of a written statement that all sales activity has ceased.

#### **ARTICLE 14: PRIVATE AMENITIES**

14.1. General. Private Amenities shall not be a portion of the Common Area, and neither membership in the Association nor ownership or occupancy of a Lot shall confer any ownership interest in or right to use any Private Amenity. Rights to use the Private Amenities will be granted only to such persons, and on such terms and conditions, as may be determined from time to time by the respective owners of the Private Amenities. The owners of the Private Amenities shall have the right, from time to time in their sole and absolute discretion and without notice, to amend or waive the terms and conditions of use of their respective Private Amenities, including, without limitation, eligibility for and duration of use rights, categories of use, extent of use privileges, and number of users; and to require the payment of a purchase price, membership contribution, initiation fee, membership deposit, dues, use charges and other charges for use privileges; and to change, eliminate or cease operation of any or all of the facilities; and to reserve use rights; and to terminate use rights altogether, subject to the terms of any written agreements,

14.2. Conveyance of Private Amenities. All Persons, including all Owners, are hereby advised that no representations or warranties have been or are made by the Declarant, the Association, any Builder, or by any Person acting on behalf of any of the foregoing, with regard to the continuing ownership or operation of any Private Amenity, and no purported representation or warranty in such regard, either written or oral, shall be effective unless specifically set forth in a written instrument executed by the record owners of the Private Amenities. Further, the ownership or operation of the Private Amenities may change at any time by virtue of, but without limitation, (a) the sale to or assumption of operations of any Private Amenity by a Person other than the current owner or operator; (b) the establishment of, or conversion of the membership structure to, an "equity" club or similar arrangement whereby the members of the Private Amenity or an entity owned or controlled by its members become the owner(s) and/or operator(s) of the Private Amenity; or (c) the conveyance of any Private Amenity to one (1) or more affiliates, shareholders, employees, or independent contractors of the Declarant. No consent of the Association, any Neighborhood Association, any Voting Delegate, or any Owner shall be required to effectuate any change in ownership or operation of any Private Amenity, for or without consideration and subject to or free of any mortgage, covenant, lien or other encumbrance.

14.3. View Impairment. Neither the Declarant, the Association, nor the owners of any Private Amenities, guarantees or represents that any view over and across any Private Amenity from Lots will be preserved without impairment. The owner of any Private Amenity shall have no obligation to prune or thin trees or other landscaping, and shall have the right, in their sole and absolute discretion, to add trees and other landscaping or to install improvements or barriers (both natural and artificial) to the Private Amenities from time to time. In addition, the owner of any Private Amenity which includes a golf course may, in its sole and absolute discretion, change the location, configuration, size and elevation of the trees, landscaping, bunkers, fairways and greens, improvements and barriers (both natural and artificial) from time to time. Any such additions or changes may diminish or obstruct any view from the Lots and any express or implied easements for view purposes or for the passage of light and air are hereby expressly disclaimed. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed, acknowledges that any view of a Private Amenity which the Lot may enjoy as of the date of the purchase of the Lot may be impaired or obstructed by the natural growth of existing landscaping, the installation of additional trees, other landscaping or other types of improvements or barriers (both natural and artificial) on the Private Amenity.

14.4. Golf Course. By acceptance of a deed to any Lot, each Owner acknowledges and agrees that owning property adjacent to a golf course has benefits as well as detriments and that the detriments include: (a) the risk of damage to property or injury to persons and animals from errant golf balls which are hit onto an Owner's Lot or other portion of the Properties or arising from the design, construction, operation, maintenance and/or use of the golf course; (b) the entry by golfers onto an Owner's Lot or other portion of the Properties utilized by the golfer to retrieve golf balls and/or other acts or omissions of persons using the golf course; (c) noise from golfers; (d) overspray in connection with the watering of the roughs, fairways and greens on the golf course; (e) noise from golf course maintenance and operation equipment (including, without limitation, compressors, blowers, mulches, tractors, utility vehicles and pumps, all of which may be operated at all times of the day and night and/or continuously); (f) odors arising from irrigation and fertilization of the turf situated on the golf course; (g) disturbance and loss of privacy resulting from motorized golf car traffic and golfers and golf course maintenance personnel; (h) the existence of water hazards, ponds, and/or lakes on the golf course; and (i) view restrictions caused by maturation of trees and shrubbery. Additionally each Owner acknowledges that pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and chemicals may be applied to the golf course throughout the year and that reclaimed water, treated waste water or other sources of non-potable water may be used for irrigation of the golf course.

Each Owner hereby assumes such risks of owning property adjacent to a golf course and forever waives and relinquishes, and agrees not to institute any action or suit at law or in equity nor to institute or prosecute, any claim, demand or compensation against Fountainhead Development Corp., Inc., the Declarant, or any successor Declarant; the Association or its Members (in their capacity as such); the owner(s) of the Private Amenities or their successors, successors-in-title, or assigns; any Builder or contractor (in their capacities as such); the golf course designer or builder; any officer, director, member, manager, or partner of any of the foregoing, or any officer, director, member or manager of any partner of the foregoing for or on account of any damages, loss, or injury either to person or property, or both, resulting directly or indirectly from the design, construction, operation, maintenance and/or use of the golf course. Each Owner hereby agrees to take any necessary steps to maintain adequate hazard and other insurance policies to protect such Owner and such Owner's family, guests, invitees, agents and employees against all such risks associated with the golf course. The Owner hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless all of the above-named Persons against any and all claims by Owner's family, guests, invitees, agents, employees, and others upon such Owner's Lot.

14.5. Open Space Disclosure. Notwithstanding the fact that any golf course located adjacent to the Properties constitutes open space or a recreation area for purposes of applicable zoning ordinances and regulations, each Owner by acquisition of title to a Lot releases and discharges forever Fountainhead Development Corp., Inc., the Declarant, or any successor Declarant; the Association or its Members (in their capacity as such); the owner(s) of the Private Amenities or their successors, successors-in-title, or

assigns; any Builder or contractor (in their capacities as such); the golf course designer or builder; any officer, director, member, manager, or partner of any of the foregoing, or any officer, director, member or manager of any partner of the foregoing from: (1) any claim that such golf course is, or must be, owned and/or operated by the Association or the Owners; and/or (2) any claim that the Owners are entitled to use any such golf course by virtue of their ownership of a Lot without complying with the terms and conditions adopted by the owner of such golf course.

Each Owner and the Association shall jointly and severally indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the above-named Persons, against and in respect of, and shall reimburse the above-named Persons on demand for, any and all claims, demands, losses, costs, expenses, obligation, liabilities, damages, recoveries, and deficiencies, including, but not limited to, interest, penalties, attorney and paralegal fees and disbursements (even if incident to any appeals), that any of the above-named Persons shall incur or suffer, which arise out of, result from, or relate to any claim that because a golf course is deemed to be open space or a recreation area for purposes of applicable zoning ordinances and regulations, such golf course must be owned and/or operated by the Association or the Owners and/or that Owner may use the golf course without complying with the terms and conditions adopted by the owner of such golf course.

14.6. Cost Sharing Agreements. The Association may enter into a contractual arrangement or Cost Sharing Agreement with any Private Amenity obligating the Private Amenity or the Association to contribute funds for, among other things, shared property or services and/or a higher level of Common Area maintenance.

14.7. Architectural Control. Neither the Association, nor any committee thereof, shall approve or permit any construction, addition, alteration, change, or installation on or to any portion of the Properties which is contiguous to any Private Amenity without giving the owner of such Private Amenity at least fifteen (15) Days' prior written notice of its intent to approve or permit the same together with copies of the request and all other documents and information finally submitted in such regard. The owner of such Private Amenity shall then have fifteen (15) Days to approve or disapprove the proposal in writing delivered to the appropriate committee or Association, stating in detail the reasons for any disapproval. The failure of the owner of such Private Amenity to respond to the notice within the fifteen (15) Day period shall constitute a waiver of the owner of the Private Amenity's right to object to the matter. If, in the reasonable opinion of the owner of the Private Amenity, the construction or modification being reviewed will have a material adverse impact on the Private Amenity, whether by restriction of view, creation of hazards or otherwise, then the party requesting the approval of the proposed construction or modification shall resubmit to the reviewing body the revised plans which take into account the objection of the owner of the Private Amenity. The review and approval process set forth in this Section shall also apply to the resubmitted plans. This Section shall also apply to any work on the Common Area contiguous to any Private Amenity.

14.8. Use Restrictions. Upon request of the owner of any Private Amenity, the Association shall enforce its use restrictions and rules against any Owner or occupant violating such regulations within such Private Amenity, including but not limited to the exercise of the Association's self-help rights for violation of sign and pet restrictions.

14.9. Limitations on Amendments. In recognition of the fact that the provisions of this Article are for the benefit of the Private Amenities, no amendment to this Article, and no amendment in derogation of any other provisions of this Declaration benefiting any Private Amenity, may be made without the written approval of the owner(s) of the affected Private Amenity. The foregoing shall not apply, however, to amendments made by the Declarant.

14.10. Jurisdiction and Cooperation. It is Declarant's intention that the Association and the Private Amenities shall cooperate to the maximum extent possible in the operation of the Properties and the Private Amenities. Each shall reasonably assist the other in upholding the Community-Wide Standard as it pertains to maintenance and the Design Standards. The Association shall have no power to



promulgate rules or regulations affecting activities on or use of the Private Amenities without the prior written consent of the owners of the Private Amenities affected thereby.

## **ARTICLE 15: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **15.1. Duration.**

(a) Except as otherwise limited by Georgia law, this Declaration shall have perpetual duration. If Georgia law limits the period during which covenants may run with the land, then this Declaration shall automatically be extended at the expiration of such period for successive periods of twenty (20) years each. Notwithstanding the above, if any of the covenants, conditions, restrictions, or other provisions of this Declaration shall be unlawful, void, or voidable for violation of the rule against perpetuities, then such provisions shall continue only until twenty-one (21) years after the death of the last survivor of the now living descendants of Elizabeth II, Queen of England.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by Georgia law, this Declaration may be terminated within the first twenty (20) years after the date of recording by an instrument signed by Owners of at least ninety percent (90%) of the total Lots within the Properties, which instrument is recorded in the Public Records; provided however, regardless of the provisions of Georgia law, this Declaration may not be terminated during the Development Period without the prior written consent of the Declarant. After twenty (20) years from the date of recording, this Declaration may be terminated only by an instrument signed by Owners owning at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the Lots and constituting at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the total number of Owners, and by the Declarant, if the Declarant owns any portion of the Properties, which instrument complies with the requirements of O.C.G.A. §44-5-60(d) and is recorded in the Public Records. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to permit termination of any easement created in this Declaration without the consent of the holder of such easement.

### **15.2. Amendment.**

(a) By Declarant. Until termination of the Class “B” membership, Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration for any purpose. Thereafter, the Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration at any time and from time to time if such amendment is necessary (i) to bring any provision into compliance with any applicable governmental statute, rule, regulation, or judicial determination; (ii) to enable any reputable title insurance company to issue title insurance coverage on the Lots; (iii) to enable any institutional or governmental lender, purchaser, insurer or guarantor of Mortgage loans, including, for example, the Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to make, purchase, insure or guarantee Mortgage loans on the Lots; or (iv) to satisfy the requirements of any local, state or federal governmental agency. However, any such amendment shall not adversely affect the title to any Lot unless the Owner shall consent in writing. In addition, during the Development Period, Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration for any other purpose, provided the amendment has no material adverse effect upon any right of any Owner.

(b) By The Board. shall be authorized to amend this Declaration without the consent of the Members (i) for the purpose of submitting the Properties to the Georgia Property Owners’ Association Act, O.C.G.A. §44-3-220, et seq. (1994) and conforming this Declaration to any mandatory provisions thereof, and (ii) to correct scrivener’s errors and other mistakes of fact, provided that amendments under this provision have no material adverse effect on the rights of the Owners. During the Development Period, any such amendments shall require the written consent of the Declarant.

(c) By Members. Except as otherwise specifically provided above and elsewhere in this Declaration, this Declaration may be amended only by the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Voting Delegates representing sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total Class “A” votes in the Association, including sixty-seven percent (67%) of the Class “A” votes held by Members other than the Declarant, and, during the Development Period, the written consent of the Declarant.

Notwithstanding the above, the percentage of votes necessary to amend a specific clause shall not be less than the prescribed percentage of affirmative votes required for action to be taken under that clause.

(d) Validity and Effective Date. Any amendment to the Declaration shall become effective upon recordation in the Public Records, unless a later effective date is specified in the amendment. Any procedural challenge to an amendment must be made within six (6) months of its recordation or such amendment shall be presumed to have been validly adopted. In no event shall a change of conditions or circumstances operate to amend any provisions of this Declaration. No amendment may remove, revoke, or modify any right or privilege of the Declarant or the Class "B" Member without the written consent of the Declarant, the Class "B" Member, or the assignee of such right or privilege.

If an Owner consents to any amendment to this Declaration or the By-Laws, it will be conclusively presumed that such Owner has the authority to consent, and no contrary provision in any Mortgage or contract between the Owner and a third party will affect the validity of such amendment.

15.3. Severability. Invalidation of any provision of this Declaration, in whole or in part, or any application of a provision of this Declaration by judgment or court order shall in no way affect other provisions or applications.

15.4. Litigation. Except as provided below, no judicial or administrative proceeding shall be commenced or prosecuted by the Association unless approved by a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Voting Delegates. A Voting Delegate representing Lots owned by Persons other than himself or herself shall not vote in favor of bringing or prosecuting any such proceeding unless authorized to do so by a vote of Owners holding seventy-five percent (75%) of the total votes attributable to Lots in the Neighborhood represented by the Voting Delegate. This Section shall not apply, however, to (a) actions brought by the Association to enforce the provisions of the Governing Documents (including, without limitation, the foreclosure of liens); (b) the imposition and collection of assessments as provided in Article 8; (c) proceedings involving challenges to ad valorem taxation; (d) counter-claims brought by the Association in proceedings instituted against it or (e) actions brought by the Association against any contractor, vendor, or supplier of goods or services arising out of a contract for services or supplies. This Section shall not be amended unless such amendment is approved by the percentage of votes, and pursuant to the same procedures, necessary to institute proceedings as provided above.

15.5. Non-Merger. Notwithstanding the fact that Declarant is the current owner of the Properties, it is the express intention of Declarant that the easements established in the Declaration for the benefit of the Properties and Owners shall not merge into the fee simple estate of individual lots conveyed by Declarant or its successor, but that the estates of the Declarant and individual lot owners shall remain as separate and distinct estates. Any conveyance of all or a portion of the Properties shall be subject to the terms and provisions of this Declaration, regardless of whether the instrument of conveyance refers to this Declaration.

15.6. Grants. The parties hereby declare that this Declaration, and the easements created herein shall be and constitute covenants running with the fee simple estate of the Properties. The grants and reservations of easements in this Declaration are independent of any covenants and contractual agreements undertaken by the parties in this Declaration and a breach by either party of any such covenants or contractual agreements shall not cause or result in a forfeiture or reversion of the easements granted or reserved in this Declaration.

15.7. Cumulative Effect Conflict. The provisions of this Declaration shall be cumulative with any additional covenants, restrictions, and declarations applicable to any Neighborhood, and the Association may, but shall not be required to, enforce the covenants, conditions, and provisions applicable to any Neighborhood; provided however, in the event of a conflict between or among this Declaration and such covenants or restrictions, and/or the provisions of any articles of incorporation, by-laws, rules and

regulations, policies, or practices adopted or carried out pursuant thereto, this Declaration, the By-Laws, Articles, and use restrictions and rules of the Association shall prevail over those of any Neighborhood. The foregoing priorities shall apply, but not be limited to, the lien for assessments created in favor of the Association. Nothing in this Section shall preclude any Supplemental Declaration or other recorded declaration, covenants and restrictions applicable to any portion of the Properties from containing additional restrictions or provisions which are more restrictive than the provisions of this Declaration, and the Association shall have the standing and authority to enforce the same.

15.8. Use of “The Woodlands at Château Élan” Name and Logo. No Person shall use the words “The Woodlands at Château Élan” or the logo for The Woodlands at Château Élan in any printed or promotional material without the Declarant’s prior written consent. However, Owners may use the words “The Woodlands at Château Élan” in printed or promotional matter where such terms are used solely to specify that particular property is located within The Woodlands at Château Élan and the Association and any other community association located in The Woodlands at Château Élan shall be entitled to use the words “The Woodlands at Château Élan” in their name.

15.9. Compliance. Every Owner and occupant of any Lot shall comply with the Governing Documents. Failure to comply shall be grounds for an action by the Association or by any aggrieved Owner(s) to recover sums due, for damages or injunctive relief, or for any other remedy available at law or in equity, in addition to those enforcement powers granted to the Association in Section 4.3.

15.10. Notice of Sale or Transfer of Title. Any Owner desiring to sell or otherwise transfer title to a Lot shall give the Board at least seven (7) Days’ prior written notice of the name and address of the purchaser or transferee, the date of such transfer of title, and such other information as the Board may reasonably require. The transferor shall continue to be jointly and severally responsible with the transferee for all obligations of the Owner of the Lot, including assessment obligations, until the date upon which such notice is received by the Board, notwithstanding the transfer of title.

15.11. Exhibits. Exhibits “A” and “B” attached to this Declaration are incorporated by this reference and amendment of such exhibits shall be governed by the provisions of Section 15.2. Exhibit “C” is attached for informational purposes and may be amended as provided therein.

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**Land Initially Submitted**

ALL THOSE TRACTS or parcels of land lying and being in Land Lots \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_th District of Gwinnett County, Georgia, being more particularly described on that certain Final Plat for the Woodlands at Château Élan, Phase II, recorded on \_\_\_\_\_, in Plat Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_, Gwinnett County, Georgia records, prepared for Fountainhead Development Corp., Inc. by \_\_\_\_\_, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. of Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc.

Exhibit "A"

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**EXHIBIT "B"**  
**Additional Property**

Any real property located within five miles of the perimeter boundary of the real property described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Exhibit "B"

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**EXHIBIT “C”**

**BY-LAWS  
OF  
WOODLANDS AT CHÂTEAU ÉLAN OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**