## EXHIBIT "D"

BYLAWS

OF

BRANNON ESTATES AT SUGAR PIKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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# - TABLE OF CONTENTS -

	<u>.</u>	Page Page	
	GENERAL	I	
I.	GENERAL	l	
	1. Applicability	1	
	Applicability     Name     Definitions	1	
	Definitions      Membership	1	
	4. Membership	I	
	Membership      Enrity Members		
	5. Entity Members	2	
	7. Majority	2	,
	Purpose      Electronic Documents and Signatures	2	,
	9. Electronic Documents and Signatures		
Д	MEETINGS OF MEMBERS	3	
	Action without a Meeting      Order of Business	2	ļ.
ш.	BOARD OF DIRECTORS		)
ш.			
	A. Composition and Selection		) -
		*********	_
,			
	The and of Disconting		
	**************************************		
	7. Action without a Meeting		•
	8. Telephonic Participation		

	C. Powers and Duties	8
	C. Powers and Duties	9
	Powers and Duties	9
	Borrowing     Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors	9
	4. Liability and indemnincation of Officers and Directors	
	D. Committees	10
	m > 7 %	
		**********
	Other Committees     Service on Committees	10
7X 7	OFFICERS	10
IV.		
	10. Other Officers	11
v.	RULE MAKING AND ENFORCEMENT	4
٧.		
	Fining and Suspension Procedure     Additional Enforcement Rights	
,		13
VI.		
	Severability      Captions	1
	Captions      Gender and Grammar	i
	4. Gender and Grammar	1
	Gender and Grammar     Fiscal Year	
	Amendment      Books and Records	

7/6/2006 5.05 Fride 1/20 ---

## **BYLAWS**

#### OF

# BRANNON ESTATES AT SUGAR PIKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Article I General

Section 1. <u>Applicability</u>. These Bylaws provide for the self-government of Brannon Estates At Sugar Pike Homeowners Association, Inc., in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State and the Declaration of Protective Covenants for Brannon Estates at Sugar Pike, recorded in the Cherokee County, Georgia land records ("Declaration").

- Section 2. Name. The name of the corporation is Brannon Estates At Sugar Pike Homeowners Association, Inc. ("Association").
- Section 3. <u>Definitions</u>. The terms used herein shall have their generally accepted meanings or such meanings as are specified in the Declaration.
- Section 4. <u>Membership.</u> An Owner of a Lot shall automatically become a member of the Association upon taking title to the Lot and shall remain a member for the entire period of ownership. As may be more fully provided below, a spouse or cohabitant of a member may exercise the powers and privileges of the member. If title to a Lot is held by more than one (1) Person, the membership shall be shared in the same proportion as the title, but there shall be only one (1) membership and one (1) vote per Lot. Membership does not include Persons who hold an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation, and the giving of a security interest shall not terminate the Owner's membership. Membership shall be appurtenant to the Lot and shall be transferred automatically by conveyance of that Lot and may be transferred only in connection with the transfer of title.
- Section 5. <u>Entity Members.</u> In the event an Owner is a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust, or other legal entity not being a natural person or persons, then any natural person who is an officer, director, or other designated agent of such corporation, partner of such partnership, beneficiary or other designated agent of such trust, or manager of a limited liability company or representative of such other legal entity shall be eligible to represent such entity or entities in the affairs of the Association. Such person's relationship with the Association shall terminate automatically upon the termination of such person's relationship with the entity or entities which are the Owner, and termination of the person's relationship with the Association will create a vacancy in any elected or appointed position with these Bylaws.
- Section 6. <u>Voting.</u> Each Lot shall be entitled to one (1) equally weighted vote, which vote may be cast by the Owner, the Owner's spouse, the cohabitant of the Owner or by a lawful proxy as provided below. When more than one (1) Person owns a Lot, the vote for such Lot shall be exercised as they determine between or among themselves, but in no event shall more than one (1) vote be cast with respect to any Lot. If only one (1) co-owner attempts to cast the vote for a Lot, it shall be conclusively presumed that such co-owner is authorized on behalf of all co-owners to cast the vote for such Lot. In the event of disagreement between or among co-owners and an attempt by two (2) or more of them to cast such vote or votes, such Persons shall not be recognized and such vote or votes shall not be counted. No Owner shall be

7/6/2006 3.03 PAGE 0/22 1128-11-11

eligible to vote, either in person or by proxy, or to act as proxy for any other member or to be elected to the Board of Directors, if that Owner is shown on the books or management accounts of the Association to be more than thirty (30) days delinquent in any payment due the Association or if the Owner has had its voting rights suspended for the infraction of any provision of the Declaration, these Bylaws, or any rule of the Association. If the voting rights of an Owner have been suspended, that Owner shall not be counted as an eligible vote for purposes of establishing a Majority or a quorum.

- Section 7. <u>Majority</u>. As used in these Bylaws, the term "majority" shall mean those votes, Owners, or other group as the context may indicate totaling more than fifty percent (50%) of the total number of eligible votes, Owners, or other group, respectively. Unless otherwise specifically stated, the words "majority vote" mean more than fifty percent (50%) of those voting in person or by proxy. Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Declaration or these Bylaws, all decisions shall be by majority vote.
- Section 8. <u>Purpose</u>. The Association shall have the responsibility of administering the Community, establishing the means and methods of collecting the contributions to the Common Expenses, arranging for the management of the Community and performing all of the other acts that may be required to be performed by the Association pursuant to the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code and the Declaration. Except as to those matters which the Declaration or the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code specifically require to be performed by the vote of the Association membership, the administration of the foregoing responsibilities shall be performed by the Board of Directors as more particularly set forth below.

## Section 9. <u>Electronic Documents and Signatures</u>.

- (a) <u>Documents</u>. Whenever these Bylaws require that a document, record or instrument be "written" or "in writing," the requirement is deemed satisfied by an Electronic Document. "Electronic Document" means information created, transmitted, received, or stored by electronic means and retrievable in human perceivable form, such as email, web pages, electronic documents, facsimile transmissions, etc. Records, documents and instruments shall not be denied effect or validity solely on the grounds that they are electronic.
- (b) <u>Signatures</u>. Whenever these Bylaws require a signature, an electronic signature satisfies that requirement only if: (1) the signature is easily recognizable as a Secure Electronic Signature which is capable of verification, under the sole control of the signatory, and attached to the electronic document in such a way that the document cannot be modified without invalidating the signature; or (2) the Board reasonably believes that the signatory affixed the signature with the intent to sign the Electronic Document, and that the Electronic Document has not been modified since the signature was affixed.
- (c) Verification and Liability for Falsification. The Board may require reasonable verification of any electronic signature, document, record or instrument. Pending verification, the Board may refuse to accept any electronic signature, document, record or instrument that, in the Board's sole discretion, is not clearly authentic. Neither the Board nor the Association shall be liable to any Member or any other Person for accepting or acting in reliance upon an electronic signature or Electronic Document which the Board reasonably believes to be authentic. Any Member or Person who negligently, recklessly or intentionally submits any falsified Electronic Document or unauthorized electronic signature shall fully indemnify the Association for actual damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses incurred as a result of such acts.

# Article II Meetings of Members

- Section 1. <u>Annual Meetings</u>. Annual meetings of the members shall be set by the Board so as to occur during the last quarter of the year, with the date, hour, and place to be set by the Board of Directors. No first meeting or annual meeting of the Association shall be set on a legal holiday.
- Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called for any purpose at any time by the President, the Secretary, or by request of any two (2) or more members of the Board of Directors, or upon written petition of Owners holding a least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total eligible Association Vote. Any such written petition by the members must be submitted to the Association's Secretary. The Secretary shall then verify that the required number of members have joined in the petition and shall submit all proper petitions to the Association's President. The President shall then promptly call a special meeting for the purpose stated in the petition setting the date, time and location of the meeting (which is not required to be the date, time or location requested in any petition submitted to the Association), and the Secretary shall send notice of the meeting in accordance with these Bylaws. Any special meeting called pursuant to written petition shall be set within thirty (30) days of the date of the petition.

- Section 3. Notice of Meetings. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to mail or deliver to each Owner of a Lot of record or to the Lot a notice of each annual or special meeting of the Association at least twenty-one (21) days prior to each annual meeting and at least seven (7) days prior to each special meeting. The notice of a special meeting shall state the time and place of the meeting. The notice of a special meeting shall state the purpose of any special meeting, as well as the time and place where it is to be held. If any Owner wishes notice to be given at an address other than his or her Lot, the Owner shall have designated by notice in writing to the Secretary such other address. The mailing or delivering of a notice of meeting in the manner provided in this Section shall be considered proper service of notice.
- Section 4. <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. Waiver of notice of meeting of the Owners shall be deemed the equivalent of proper notice. Any Owner may, in writing, waive notice of any meeting of the Owners, either before or after such meeting. Attendance at a meeting by an Owner, whether in person or represented by proxy, shall be deemed waiver by such Owner of notice of the time, date, and place thereof unless such Owner specifically objects to lack of proper notice at the time the meeting is called to order. Attendance at a special meeting shall also be deemed waiver of notice of all business transacted at such meeting unless objection to lack of notice is raised before the business, of which proper notice was not given, is put to a vote.
- Section 5. Quorum. Except as may be provided elsewhere, the presence of Owners, in person or by proxy at the beginning of the meeting, entitled to cast one third (1/3) of the total eligible Association vote shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum is established for a meeting, it shall conclusively be presumed to exist until the meeting is adjourned and shall not need to be reestablished. Owners whose voting rights have been suspended pursuant to the Declaration or these Bylaws shall not be counted as eligible votes toward the quorum requirement.
- Section 6. <u>Adjournment</u>. Any meeting of the Owners may be adjourned from time to time for periods not exceeding thirty (30) days by vote of the Owners holding the Majority of the votes represented at such meeting, regardless of whether a quorum is present. Any business which could be transacted properly at the original session of the meeting may be transacted at a reconvened session, and no additional notice of such reconvened session shall be required.

Section 8. <u>Action Without a Meeting</u>. In the Board's discretion, any action that may be taken by the Association members at any annual, regular, or special meeting may be taken without a meeting if the Board delivers a written consent form or written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter.

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(a) <u>Ballot</u>. A written ballot shall set forth each proposed action and provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action. Approval by written ballot shall be valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot.

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

- (b) Written Consent. Approval by written consent shall be valid only when the number of written consents setting forth the actions taken is received and equals or exceeds the requisite majority of the voting power required to pass such action at a meeting held on the date that the last consent is executed and such action is consented to by the Declarant, if required. Executed written consents shall be included in the minutes or filed with the Association's records. If an action of the members is approved by written consent hereunder, the Board shall issue written notice of such approval to all members who did not sign written consents. Membership approval shall be effective ten (10) days after written notice is issued; provided, however, if the consent is to an amendment to the Declaration or Bylaws which must be recorded, the effective date shall be no earlier than the date of recording of such amendment.
- Section 9. Order of Business. At all meetings of the Association, Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition) shall govern when not in conflict with the Declaration, these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation, unless the Owners present at a particular meeting a vote to suspend Roberts Rules at that meeting.

# Article III Board of Directors

## A. Composition and Selection.

Section 1. Governing Body; Composition. The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors. Except as provided in Section 2 of this Article, the directors shall be members or spouses or cohabitants of such members; provided, however, no Person and his or her spouse or cohabitants may serve on the Board at the same time, and no co-owners may serve on the Board at the same time. No persons shall be eligible to be elected to or continue to serve on the Board of Directors if they are shown on the book and records of the Association to be more than thirty (30) days delinquent in the payment of any assessment or charge by the Association. Directors shall not be eligible to serve more than three (3) assessment over two (2) year terms without first resigning from the Board for a time period which shall be the lesser of: (a) one (1) year; or (b) the period to time from the end of one (1) annual meeting of the Association to the beginning of the next annual meeting of the Association.

- Section 2. <u>Directors Appointed by Declarant.</u> Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, Declarant shall have exclusive authority to appoint and remove directors and officers until the earlier of: (1) seven (7) years after the recording of the Declaration, (2) the date as of which one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots shall have been conveyed by Declarant to Owners other than a Person constituting the Declarant, or (3) the surrender in writing by Declarant of the authority to appoint and remove officers and directors of the Association. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed to or other conveyance of a Lot, vests in Declarant this authority to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association.
- Section 3. Number of Directors and Term of Office. During the period that Declarant has the authority to appoint directors and officers of the Association as described in Section 2 of this Article, the Board shall consist of three (3) directors. Within ninety (90) days after termination of the Declarant's right to appoint directors and officers of the Association as described in Section 2 of this Article, the Association shall call a meeting at which the Owners shall elect five (5) directors as successors to the Declarant appointed director(s). For purposes of this Section 3, such meeting shall be referred to as the "Turnover Meeting".

If the Turnover Meeting is not the annual meeting, the three (3) director nominees receiving the highest number of votes at the Turnover Meeting shall serve until the second annual meeting after the Turnover Meeting. The two (2) directors nominees receiving the next highest number of votes at the Turnover Meeting shall serve until the first annual meeting after the Turnover Meeting. At the expiration of the term of office of each member of the Board of Directors, and at each annual meeting thereafter, a successor shall be elected to serve for a term of two (2) years. The members of the Board of Directors shall hold office until their respective successors are elected.

- Section 4. <u>Nomination.</u> Nomination for election to the Board shall be made from the floor at the meeting. The Board also may appoint a nominating committee to make nominations prior to the meeting.
- Section 5. <u>Elections</u>. All members of the Association eligible to vote shall be entitled to cast their entire vote for each directorship to be filled. There shall be no cumulative voting. The directorships for which elections are held shall be filled by that number of candidates receiving the most votes. Voting

for election of Board members shall be by written ballot (unless dispensed by unanimous consent at such meeting at which such voting is conducted).

Section 6. Removal of Members of the Board of Directors. After expiration of Declarant's right to appoint officers and directors of the Association, at any regular or special meeting of the Association duly called, any one (1) or more of the members of the Board of Directors may be removed with or without cause by a Majority of the total eligible Association vote and a successor may then and there be elected to fill the vacancy thus created. Further, any director who is more than thirty (30) days past due in payment of any assessment or charge shall be automatically removed from the Board of Directors, even if the director subsequently pays the amount owed, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in Section 5 below. Any director who has had three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regularly scheduled Board meetings may be removed by the vote of a majority of the other directors. Any director whose removal has been proposed shall be given at least ten (10) days notice of the calling of the meeting to consider his or her removal and the purpose thereof and shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting.

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Section 7. <u>Vacancies</u>. Vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by any reason, except the removal of a director by vote of the membership, shall be filled by a vote of the Majority of the remaining directors, even though less than a quorum, at any meeting of the Board of Directors. The successor so selected shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the director being replaced. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary stated herein, any director who is an officer, director or other designated agent of an entity member and whose position become vacant for any reason, may be replaced by the entity who is the Owner unless there has been a transfer of ownership of the Lot, in which case, the vacancy shall be filled by the remaining directors, even if less than a quorum is at any meeting of the directors.

Section 8. Compensation. Directors shall not be compensated for services as such unless and only to the extent that compensation is authorized by a Majority of the total eligible Association vote. Directors may be reimbursed for the expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as directors upon approval of such expenses by the Board of Directors. Directors also may be given nominal gifts or tokens of appreciation by the Association for recognition of services performed, not to exceed a value of One Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$100.00) per calendar year. For purposes hereof, reasonable food and beverages purchased for Board meetings shall not be considered compensation.

Section 9. <u>Director Conflicts of Interest.</u> Nothing herein shall prohibit a director from entering into a contract and being compensated for services or supplies furnished to the Association in a capacity other than as director, provided that the director's interest is disclosed to the Board and the contract is approved by a Majority of the directors who are at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present, excluding the director with whom the contract is made. The interested director shall not count for purposes of establishing a quorum of the Board. The interested director shall be entitled to be present at any meeting at which the proposed contract is discussed and to discuss the proposed contract, unless requested by any other director to leave the room during the discussion.

### B. Meetings.

Section 1. <u>Organization Meetings</u>. The first meeting of the Board of Directors following each annual meeting of the Association shall be held within ten (10) days at the time and place determined by the Board.

- Section 2. <u>Regular Meetings</u>. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such time and place as shall be determined from time to time by the Board, but such meetings shall be held at least once every six (6) months.
- Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President on three (3) days notice to each director given by regular first class or electronic mail, in person, by telephone, by facsimile transmission, which notice shall state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer in like manner and on like notice on the written request of at least two (2) directors.
- Section 4. <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. Any director may, at any time, in writing, waive notice of any meeting of the Board, and such waiver shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. Attendance by a director at any meeting of the Board shall also constitute a waiver of notice by him or her of the time and place of such meeting. If all directors are present at any Board meeting, no notice shall be required and any business may be transacted at such meeting.
- Section 5. Quorum of Board of Directors. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, a Majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the votes of a Majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute the decision of the Board of Directors. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of directors, if any action taken is approved by at least a Majority of the required quorum for that meeting. If any meeting cannot be held because a quorum is not present, a Majority of the directors who are present at such meeting may adjourn the meeting to a time not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) days from the time that the original meeting was called. At such adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present, any business which might have been transacted at the meeting originally called may be transacted without further notice.
- Section 6. Open Meetings. Board meetings need not be open to all members. However, if the Board permits members to attend Board meetings, then members other than directors may not participate in any discussion or deliberation unless expressly so authorized by the Board. Notwithstanding the above, the Board may adjourn a meeting and reconvene in executive session to discuss and vote upon personnel matters, litigation in which the Association is or may become involved, and orders of business of a similar nature. The nature of any and all business to be considered in executive session shall first be announced in open session. The Board may order the removal of any meeting guest who, in the Board's opinion, either disrupts the conduct of business at the meeting or fails to leave the meeting upon request after an announcement of reconvening in executive session.
- Section 7. <u>Action Without a Meeting</u>. Any action by the Board of Directors required or permitted to be taken at any meeting may be taken without a meeting if a Majority of the directors consent to such action in writing, sent via hand delivery, facsimile, regular first class or electronic mail. Such written consents must describe the action taken and be signed by no fewer than a Majority of the directors and such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. <u>Telephonic Participation</u>. One or more directors may participate in and vote during any regular or special meeting of the Board by telephone conference call or similar communication equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time, and those directors participating by telephone shall be deemed to be present at such meeting for quorum and

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other purposes. Any such meeting at which a quorum participates shall constitute a regular meeting of the

## C. Powers and Duties.

- Section 1. <u>Powers and Duties</u>. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Association and shall have all the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the Community and may do all such acts and things as are not by the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws directed to be done and exercised exclusively by the members. In addition to the duties imposed by these Bylaws or by any resolution of the Association that may hereafter be adopted, the Board of Directors shall have the power to and shall be responsible for the following, in way of explanation, but not limitation:
- (a) preparing and adopting of an annual budget, in which there shall be established the contribution of each Owner to the Common Expenses;

- (b) making assessments to defray the Common Expenses, establishing the means and methods of collecting such assessments, and establishing the period of the installment payments of the annual assessment;
- (c) providing for the operation, care, upkeep, and maintenance of all of the areas which are the maintenance responsibility of the Association;
- (d) designating, hiring, and dismissing the personnel necessary for the operation of the Association and the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Common Property, Association property and, where appropriate, providing for the compensation of such personnel and for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and material to be used by such personnel in the performance of their duties;
- (e) collecting the assessments, depositing the proceeds thereof in a financial depository or institution which it shall approve, or otherwise investing the proceeds in accordance with any limitations set forth in O.C.G.A. § 14-3-302, and using the proceeds to administer the Association;
- (f) making and amending rules and regulations and imposing sanctions for violation thereof, including, without limitation, reasonable monetary fines;
- (g) opening of bank or other financial accounts on behalf of the Association and designating the signatories required;
- (h) making or contracting for the making of repairs, additions, and improvements to, or alterations of the Common Property in accordance with the other provisions of the Declaration and these Bylaws, after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty;
- (i) enforcing by legal means the provisions of the Declaration, these Bylaws, and the rules and regulations adopted by it, and bringing any proceedings that may be instituted on behalf of or against the Owners concerning the Association;
- (j) obtaining and carrying insurance against casualties and liabilities, as provided in the Declaration, and paying the premium cost thereof;

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  - (k) paying the costs of all services rendered to the Association or its members and not directly chargeable to specific Owners;
  - (I) keeping books with detailed accounts of the receipts and expenditures affecting the Association and its administration, specifying the maintenance and repair expenses and any other expenses incurred; and
  - (m) contracting with any Person for the performance of various duties and functions. The Board shall have the power to enter into common management agreements with trusts, condominiums or other associations or corporations. Any and all functions of the Association shall be fully transferable by the Board, in whole or in part, to any other entity.

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- Section 2. <u>Management Agent</u>. The Association may, but shall not be required to, hire a professional management agent or agents, at a compensation established by the Board, to perform such duties and services as the Board of Directors shall authorize. The Declarant or an affiliate of the Declarant may be employed as managing agent or manager. The Board shall use reasonable efforts in any management contract to provide for termination of such contract with or without cause and without penalty, upon no more than thirty (30) days written notice, and for a term not in excess of one (1) year.
- Section 3. <u>Borrowing</u>. The Board of Directors shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of maintenance, repair, restoration or improvement of the Common Property and facilities without the approval of the members of the Association; the Board shall also be authorized to borrow money for other purposes; provided, however, the Board shall obtain membership approval in the same manner as provided for special assessments if the proposed borrowing is for the purpose of modifying, improving, or adding amenities to the Community or the total amount of such borrowing exceeds or would exceed Ten Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) outstanding debt at any one time.
- Liability and Indemnification of Officers, Directors and Committee Members. The Association shall indemnify every officer, director, and committee member (including directors, officers, and committee members appointed by Declarant during the period of Declarant control) against any and all expenses, including attorney's fees, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such officer, director or committee member in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any such action, suit, or proceeding, if approved by the then Board of Directors) to which he or she may be made a party by reason of being or having been an officer, director or committee member, whether or not such person is an officer, director or committee member at the time such expenses are incurred subject to the limitation below. The officers, directors and committee members shall not be liable for any mistake of judgment, negligent or otherwise, or for injury or damage caused by any such officer, director or committee member in the performance of his or her duties, except for his or her own individual willful misfeasance or malfeasance. The Association, in determining whether or not to indemnify a director, officer or committee member, shall not impute knowledge to said director, officer or committee member from any source whatsoever; rather, any such determination shall be based on the actual knowledge of the director, officer or committee member. The officers, directors and committee members shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made by them, in good faith, on behalf of the Association (except to the extent that such officers, directors or committee members may also be members of the Association), and the Association shall indemnify and forever hold each such officer, director or committee member free and harmless against any and all liability to others on account of any such contract or commitment. Any right to indemnification provided for herein shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any officer, director or committee member or former officer or director, may be entitled. The

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Association shall maintain, as a Common Expense, adequate general liability and, if obtainable, officers' and directors' liability insurance to fund this obligation, and the insurance shall be written as provided in the Declaration.

## D. Committees.

- Section 1. <u>Nominating Committee</u>. Pursuant to Section 4 of Part A of this Article, there may be a Nominating Committee appointed to perform the functions specified in Section 4 of Part A of this Article.
- Section 2. <u>Architectural Review Committee</u>. The Board may establish an Architectural Review Committee for the purpose of establishing and maintaining architectural standards in the Community as provided in the Declaration.

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- Section 3. Other Committees. There shall be such other committees as the Board shall determine with the powers and duties that the Board shall authorize.
- Section 4. <u>Service on Committees</u>. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws or in the resolution authorizing a particular committee, the members of any committee shall be appointed by the President and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. Any committee member may be removed with or without cause at any time and with or without a successor being named.

## Article IV Officers

- Section 1. <u>Designation</u>. The principal officers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Board of Directors may appoint one (I) or more Assistant Treasurers, Assistant Secretaries, and such other subordinate officers as in its judgment may be necessary. Any assistant or subordinate officers shall not be required to be members of the Board of Directors. Except for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, which may be held by the same person, no person may hold more than one (1) office. The President and Treasurer shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. <u>Election of Officers</u>. Except during the period in which the Declarant has the right to appoint the officers of the Association under Article III, Part A, Section 2 of these Bylaws, the officers of the Association shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board following each annual meeting of the members and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board of Directors and until a successor is elected.
- Section 3. Removal of Officers. Upon the affirmative vote of a Majority of the members of the Board of Directors, any officer may be removed, either with or without cause, and a successor may be elected.
- Section 4. Resignation. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors, the President, or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

- Section 6. <u>President</u>. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. The President shall have all the general powers and duties which are incident to the office of the president of a corporation organized under the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, including, but not limited to, the power to appoint committees from among the members from time to time as he or she may in his or her discretion decide is appropriate to assist in the conduct of the affairs of the Association.
- Section 7. <u>Vice President</u>. The Vice President shall act in the President's absence and shall have all powers, duties, and responsibilities provided for the President when so acting.
- Section 8. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and shall have charge of such books and papers as the Board of Directors may direct, and shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of the secretary of a corporation organized under Georgia law.
- Section 9. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the responsibility for the Association's funds and securities and shall be responsible for keeping full and accurate financial records and books of account showing all receipts and disbursements, for preparing all required financial statements and tax returns, and for the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects in the name of the Association or the managing agent in such depositories as may from time to time be designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the preparation of the budget as provided in the Declaration. The Treasurer may delegate all or a part of the preparation and notification duties associated with the above responsibilities to a management agent.
- Section 10. Other Officers. Other offices may be created by the Board, and the Board members which hold such offices shall have such titles and duties as are defined by the Board.
- Section 11. <u>Agreements, Contracts, Deeds, Leases, Etc.</u> All agreements, contracts, deeds, leases, checks, promissory notes, and other instruments of the Association shall be executed by at least two (2) officers or by such other person or persons as may be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors.

# Article V Rule Making and Enforcement

Section 1. Authority and Enforcement. The Community shall be used only for those uses and purposes set out in the Declaration. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to make, modify, repeal and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the conduct, use, and enjoyment of Lots and the Common Property; provided, however, copies of all such rules and regulations shall be furnished to all Owners and Occupants. Any rule or regulation may be repealed by the affirmative vote or written consent of a Majority of the total eligible Association vote at an annual or special meeting of the membership. Every Owner and Occupant shall comply with the Declaration, Bylaws and rules and regulations of the Association, and any lack of compliance therewith shall entitle the Association and, in an appropriate case, one (1) or more aggrieved Lot Owners, to take action to enforce the terms of the Declaration, Bylaws or rules and regulations.

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The Board shall have the power to impose reasonable fines, which shall constitute a lien upon the Owner's Lot, and to suspend an Owner's right to vote or to use the Common Property for violation of any duty imposed under the Declaration, these Bylaws, or any rules and regulations duly adopted hereunder, provided, however, nothing herein shall authorize the Association or the Board of Directors to limit ingress and egress to or from a Lot. In the event that any Occupant of a Lot violates the Declaration, Bylaws, or a rule or regulation and a fine is imposed, notice of such violation shall be sent to the Owner and the Occupant, and the fine shall first be assessed against such 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 Association, and the fine shall be an assessment and a lien against the Lot until paid. The failure of the Board to enforce any provision of the Declaration, Bylaws, or any rule or regulation shall not be deemed a waiver of the right of the Board to do so thereafter.

- Section 2. Fining and Suspension Procedure. The Board shall not impose a fine or suspend the right to vote or to use the Common Property (unless an Owner is shown on the books or management accounts of the Association to be more than thirty (30) days delinquent in any payment due the Association in which case such suspensions shall be automatic; provided further, however, suspension of common utility services shall require compliance with the provisions of the Declaration, where applicable) unless and until notice of the violation is given as provided in subsection 2(a) below. Any such fine or fines may be effective or commence upon the sending of such notice or such later date as may be set forth in such notice, notwithstanding the violator's right to request a hearing before the Board to challenge such fine under subsection 2(b) below.
- Association is violated, the Board shall serve the violator with written notice sent certified mail, return receipt requested, which shall state: (i) the nature of the alleged violation; (ii) the proposed sanction to be imposed; (iii) a statement that the violator may challenge the fact of the occurrence of a violation, the proposed sanction, or both, by written challenge and written request for a hearing before the Board, which request must be received by the Board within ten (10) days of the date of the notice; (iv) the name, address, and telephone number of a person to contact to challenge the proposed action. If a timely challenge is made and the violation is cured within ten (10) days of the date of the notice, the Board, in its discretion, may, but is not obligated to, waive any sanction or portion thereof. In the event of a continuing violation, each day the violation continues or occurs again constitutes a separate offense, and fines may be imposed on a per diem basis without further notice to the violator.

Board of Directors shall be held in executive session affording the violator a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The hearing shall be set at a reasonable time and date by the Board, and notice of the time, date (which shall be not less than ten (10) days from the giving of notice without the consent of the violator), and place of the hearing and an invitation to attend the hearing and produce any statements, evidence, and witnesses shall be sent to the alleged violator. Proof of such notice shall be placed in the minutes of the meeting. Such proof shall be deemed adequate if a copy of the notice, together with a statement of the date and manner of delivery, is entered by the officer or director who delivered such notice. The notice requirement shall be deemed satisfied if the violator appears at the meeting. The minutes of the meeting shall contain a written statement of the results of the hearing and the sanction, if any, imposed. This Section shall be deemed complied with if a hearing is held and the violator attends and is provided an opportunity to be heard, notwithstanding the fact that the notice requirements contained herein are not technically followed.

Section 3. Additional Enforcement Rights. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained, the Association, acting through its Board of Directors, may elect to enforce any provision of the Declaration, the Bylaws, or the rules and regulations by self-help (specifically including, but not limited to, the towing of vehicles that are in violation of parking rules and regulations) or by suit at law or in equity to enjoin any violation or to recover monetary damages or both without the necessity for compliance with the procedure set forth in Section 2 of this Article. In any such action, to the maximum extent permissible, the Owner or Occupant responsible for the violation for which abatement is sought shall pay all costs, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred.

The Association or its duly authorized agent shall have the power to enter a Lot or upon any portion of the Common Property to abate or remove, using such force as may be reasonably necessary, any structure, thing or condition which violates the Declaration, the Bylaws, or the rules and regulations; provided, however, written notice shall be given to the Owner of the Lot at least two (2) days prior to the time that any items of construction are altered or demolished. All costs of self-help, including reasonable attorney's fees, shall be assessed against the violating Owner and shall be collected as provided herein for the collection of assessments.

## Article VI Miscellaneous

## Section 1. Notices.

- (a) Method of Giving Notice. Unless otherwise prohibited in these Bylaws, all notices, demands, bills, statements, or other communications shall be in writing and shall be given via:
  - (i) Personal delivery to the addressee; or
  - (ii) United States mail, first class, postage prepaid; or
  - (iii) Electronic mail; or
  - (iv) Facsimile; or
  - (v) A secure web site, provided that notice shall be deemed given via web site only upon proof that the addressee has retrieved the message.
- (b) Addressee. Notice sent by one of the methods described in subparagraph (a) above shall be deemed to have been duly given:
  - (i) If to a Lot Owner, at the address, electronic mail address or facsimile number which the Owner has designated in writing and filed with the Secretary, or if no such address has been designated, at the address of the Lot of such Owner;
  - (ii) If to an Occupant, at the address, electronic mail address or facsimile number which the Occupant has designated in writing, or if no such address has been designated, at the address of the Lot occupied; or

- Section 2. <u>Severability</u>. The invalidity of any part of these Bylaws shall not impair or affect in any manner the validity, enforceability, or effect of the balance of these Bylaws or the Declaration.
- Section 3. <u>Captions</u>. The captions herein are inserted only as a matter of convenience and for reference and in no way define, limit, or describe the scope of these Bylaws or the intent of any provision thereof.
- Section 4. Gender and Grammar. The use of the masculine gender in these Bylaws shall be deemed to include the feminine gender, and the use of the singular shall be deemed to include the plural whenever the context so requires.
- Section 5. <u>Fiscal Year</u>. The fiscal year of the Association may be set by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such resolution by the Board of Directors, the fiscal year shall be the calendar year.
- Section 6. <u>Financial Review</u>. A financial review of the accounts of the Association shall be performed annually in the manner provided by the Board. However, after having received the Board's financial review at the annual meeting, the Owners may, by a Majority of the total eligible Association vote, require that the accounts of the Association be audited as a Common Expense by an independent accountant.
- Section 7. Conflicts. The duties and powers of the Association shall be those set forth in the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, the Declaration, these Bylaws, and the Articles of Incorporation, together with those reasonably implied to affect the purposes of the Association; provided, however, that if there are conflicts or inconsistencies between the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, the Declaration, these Bylaws, or the Articles of Incorporation, then the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, as may be applicable, the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, in that order, shall prevail, and each Owner of a Lot, by acceptance of a deed or other conveyance therefor, covenants to vote in favor of such amendments as will remove such conflicts or inconsistencies.
- Section 8. Amendment. These Bylaws may be amended unilaterally at any time and from time to time by Declarant (a) if an amendment is necessary to bring any provision into compliance with any applicable governmental statute, rule, or regulation or judicial determination with which it is in conflict; (b) if an amendment is necessary to enable any reputable title insurance company to issue title insurance coverage with respect to the Lots subject to the Declaration; (c) if an amendment is required by an institutional or governmental lender or purchaser of mortgage loans, including, for example, the Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to enable the lender or purchaser to make or purchase Mortgage loans on the Lots subject to the Declaration; or (d) if an amendment is necessary to enable any governmental agency or reputable private insurance company to insure or guarantee Mortgage loans on the Lots subject to the Declaration. Furthermore, until one hundred percent (100%) of the Community has been developed and conveyed to Owners in the normal course of development and sale, Declarant may unilaterally amend these Bylaws for any other purpose. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, any such amendment shall not materially adversely affect the substantive rights of any Owner, nor shall it adversely 314635-1

address.

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affect title to any Lot without the consent of the affected Owner.

In addition to the above, these Bylaws may be amended upon the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination of affirmative vote and written consent, of Owners holding at least two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible vote of the Association, plus the consent of the Declarant (until one hundred percent (100%) of the Community has been developed and conveyed to Owners in the normal course of development and sale). Amendments to these Bylaws shall become effective upon recordation, unless a later effective date is specified in the amendment. No provision of these Bylaws which reserves or grants special rights to the Declarant shall be amended without the Declarant's prior written consent so long as the Declarant owns any property in the Community primarily for development and/or sale.

Any action to challenge the validity of an amendment adopted under this Section must be brought within one (1) year of the amendment's effective date. No action to challenge any such amendment may be brought after such time.

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### Section 9. Books and Records.

- (a) All members of the Association and any institutional holder of a first Mortgage shall be entitled to inspect the following records at a reasonable time and location specified by the Association, upon written request at least five (5) days before the date on which the member wishes to inspect and copy:
  - (i) its Articles or restated Articles of Incorporation and all amendments to them currently in effect;
    - (ii) its Bylaws or restated Bylaws and all amendments to them currently in effect;
  - (iii) resolutions adopted by either its members or Board of Directors increasing or decreasing the number of directors or the classification of directors, or relating to the characteristics, qualifications, rights, limitations, and obligations of members or any class or category of members;
  - (iv) resolutions adopted by either its members or Board of Directors relating to the characteristics, qualification, rights, limitations, and obligations of members or any class or category of members;
  - (v) the minutes of all meetings of members and records of all actions approved by the members for the past three (3) years;
  - (vi) all written communications to members generally within the past three (3) years, including the financial statements furnished for the past three (3) years;
  - (vii) a list of the names and business or home addresses of its current directors and officers; and
    - (viii) its most recent annual report delivered to the Secretary of State.
- (b) A member may inspect and copy the following records upon written notice at least five (5) business days before the date on which the member wishes to inspect and copy only if the member's demand is made in good faith and for a proper purpose that is reasonably relevant to the member's legitimate interest 314635-1
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as a member; the member describes with reasonable particularity the purpose and the records the member desires to inspect; the records are directly connected with this purpose; and the records are to be used only for the stated purpose:

- (i) excerpts from minutes of any Board meeting, records of any action of a committee of the Board while acting in place of the Board on behalf of the Association, minutes of any meeting of the members, and records of action taken by the members or the Board without a meeting, to the extent not subject to inspection under subsection 9(a);
  - (ii) accounting records of the Association; and
- (iii) the membership list only if for a purpose related to the member's interest as a member. Without the consent of the Board, a membership list or any part thereof may not be: used to solicit money or property unless such money or property will be used solely to solicit the votes of the members in an election to be held by the Association; used for any commercial purpose; or sold to or purchased by any person.

The Association may impose a reasonable charge, covering the cost of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the Member.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Board may limit or preclude member inspection of confidential or privileged documents, including attorney/client privileged communications, executive session meeting minutes, and financial records or account of other members. Minutes for any Board or Association meetings do not become effective and an official Association record until approved by the Board or Association membership, as applicable, at a subsequent meeting.