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EXHIBIT "D"

BY-LAWS

OF

TOWNE LAKE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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### TOWNE LAKE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Article I Name, Membership, Applicability, and Definitions

- Section 1. <u>Name</u>. The name of the corporation is Towne Lake Hills Community Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Association").
- Section 2. <u>Membership</u>. The Association shall have one (1) class of membership, as is more fully set forth in that Declaration of Protective Covenants for Towne Lake Hills (said declaration, as amended, renewed, or extended from time to time, is hereinafter referred to as the "Declaration"), the terms of which pertaining to membership are specifically incorporated by reference herein.
- Section 3. <u>Definitions</u>. The words used in these By-Laws shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Declaration, unless the context shall prohibit.

## Article II Association: Meetings, Quorum, Voting, Proxies

- Section 1. <u>Place of Meetings</u>. Meetings of the Association shall be held at the principal office of the Association or at such other suitable place convenient to the members of the Association as may be designated by the Board of Directors, either within the Community or as convenient thereto as possible and practical.
- Section 2. <u>First Meeting and Annual Meetings</u>. An annual or special meeting shall be held within one (1) year from the date the Declaration is recorded. Annual meetings shall be set by the Board so as to occur no later than sixty (60) days after the close of the Association's fiscal year. If the day for the annual meeting of the members is a legal holiday, the meeting will be held at the same hour on the first day following which is not a legal holiday (excluding Saturday and Sunday).
- Section 3. <u>Special Meetings</u>. The President may call special meetings. In addition, it shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting of the Association if so directed by resolution of a Majority of the Board of Directors or upon a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Total Association Vote. The notice of any special meeting shall state the date, time, and place of such meeting and the purpose thereof. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting, except as stated in the notice.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Association to mail or to cause to be delivered to the Owner of record of each Lot a notice of each annual or special meeting of the Association stating the purpose of the special meeting, as well as the time and place where it is to be held. If an Owner wishes notice to be given at an address other than his or her Lot, he or she shall have designated by notice in writing to the Secretary of the Association such other address. The mailing or delivery of a notice of meeting in the manner provided in this Section shall be considered service of notice. Notices shall be served not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) days before a meeting.

Section 5. <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. Waiver of notice of a meeting of the members shall be deemed the equivalent of proper notice. Any member may, in writing, waive notice of any meeting of the members, either before or after such meeting. Attendance at a meeting by a member, whether in person or by proxy, shall be deemed waiver by such member of notice of the time, date, and place thereof, unless such member specifically objects to lack of proper notice at the time the meeting is called to order.

Section 6. Adjournment of Meetings. If any meetings of the Association cannot be held because a quorum is not present, a Majority of the members who are present at such meeting, either in person or by proxy, may adjourn the meeting to a time not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) days from the time 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 7. <u>Voting</u>. The voting rights of the members shall be as set forth in the Declaration, and such voting rights are specifically incorporated herein.

Section 8. <u>Proxies</u>. At all meetings of members, each member may vote in person or by proxy. All proxies shall be in writing, dated, and filed with the Secretary of the Association before the appointed time of each meeting. Every proxy shall be revocable and shall automatically cease upon conveyance by the member of his or her Lot, or upon receipt of notice by the Secretary of the Association of the death or judicially declared incompetence of a member, or upon written revocation, or upon the expiration of eleven (11) months from the date of the proxy.

Section 9. <u>Quorum</u>. The presence, in person or by proxy, of at least five percent (5%) of the Total Association Vote shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Association. The members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.

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Section 10. Action Without A Formal Meeting. Any action to be taken at a meeting of the members or any action that may be taken at a meeting of the members may be taken without a meeting if one or more consents, in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by members holding 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. Such action shall be effective upon receipt by the Association of a sufficient number of such consents executed by current members unless a later effective date is specified therein. Each signed consent shall be delivered to the Association and shall be included in the minutes of meetings of members filed in the permanent records of the Association.

Section 11. Action By Written Ballot. Any action to be taken at any annual, regular or special meeting of members may be taken without a meeting if approved by written ballot as provided The Association shall deliver a written ballot to each herein. member entitled to vote on the matter. The written ballot shall set forth each proposed action and provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action. Approval by written ballot of an action shall only be valid when the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting held to authorize such 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. solicitations for votes by written ballot shall indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements, shall state the percentage of approvals necessary to approve each matter other than election of directors, and shall specify the time by which a ballot must be received by the Association in order to be counted. A timely written ballot received by the Association may not be revoked without the consent of the Board of Directors. The results of each action by written ballot shall be certified by the Secretary of the Association and shall be included in the minutes of meetings of members filed in the permanent records of the Association.

## Article III Board of Directors: Number, Powers, Meetings

### A. Composition and Selection.

Section 1. <u>Governing Body; Composition</u>. The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors. Except as provided in Section 2 of this Article, the directors must reside in the Community and shall be members or spouses of such members; provided, however, no Person and his or her spouse may serve on the Board at the same time.

Directors Appointed by Declarant. Subject to Section 2. Article III, Section 5, below, Declarant shall have the right to appoint and remove at least a Majority of the members of the Board of Directors and any officer or officers of the Association until such time as the first of the following events shall occur: (a) the expiration of fifteen (15) years after the date of the recording of the Declaration; (b) the date on which seventy-five percent (75%) of the Lots planned for the Community (as determined by the master plan of the Community prepared and amended from time to time by the Declarant) shall have been conveyed by Declarant to Owners other than a Person or Persons constituting Declarant; or (c) the surrender by Declarant in writing of the authority to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed to or other conveyance of a Lot, vests in Declarant such authority to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association. The directors selected by the Declarant need not be Owners or residents in the Community. names of the initial directors selected by the Declarant are set forth in the Articles of Incorporation of the Association.

Section 3. <u>Number of Directors</u>. The Board shall consist of either three (3) or five (5) members, as determined by unanimous resolution of the Board. If necessary, such resolution shall provide the method and/or voting procedures by which directors are to be added or eliminated.

Section 4. <u>Nomination of Directors</u>. Elected directors shall be nominated from the floor and may also be nominated by a nominating committee, if such a committee is established by the Board. All candidates shall have a reasonable opportunity to communicate their qualifications to the members and to solicit votes.

Section 5. <u>Election and Term of Office</u>. Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein:

Within thirty (30) days after the time Owners other than the Declarant or a builder holding title solely for purposes of development and sale own twenty-five percent (25%) of the Lots planned for the Community (as determined by the master plan of the Community prepared and amended from time to time by the Declarant) or whenever the Board earlier determines, the Association shall call a special meeting at which Owners other than the Declarant shall elect one (1) of the three (3) directors, who shall be an at-large director. The remaining two (2) directors shall be appointees of the Declarant. The director elected by the Owners shall not be subject to removal by the Declarant acting alone and shall be elected for a term of two (2) years or until the happening of the event described in subsection (b) below, whichever is shorter. If such director's term expires prior to the happening of the event described in subsection (b) below, a successor shall be elected for a like term.

- Within thirty (30) days after the time Owners other than the Declarant or a builder holding title solely for purposes of development and sale own fifty percent (50%) of the Lots planned for the Community (as determined by the master plan of the Community prepared and amended from time to time by the Declarant) or whenever the Board earlier determines, the Board shall be increased to five (5) directors. The Association shall call a special meeting at which Owners other than the Declarant shall elect two (2) of the five (5) directors, who shall serve as The remaining three (3) directors shall be at-large directors. appointees of the Declarant. The directors elected by the Owners shall not be subject to removal by the Declarant acting alone and shall be elected for a term of two (2) years or until the happening of the event described in subsection (c) below, whichever is shorter. If such directors' terms expire prior to the happening of the event described in subsection (c) below, successors shall be elected for a like term.
- (c) Within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the Declarant's right to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association, the Association shall call a special meeting at which Owners other than the Declarant shall elect three (3) of the five (5) directors, who shall serve as at-large directors. The remaining two (2) directors shall be appointees of the Declarant. The directors elected by the Owners shall not be subject to removal by the Declarant acting alone and shall serve until the first annual meeting of the Association following the expiration of the Declarant's right to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association. If such annual meeting occurs within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the Declarant's right to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association, this subsection shall not apply and directors shall be elected in accordance with subsection (d) below.
- (d) At the first annual meeting of the Association after the expiration of the Declarant's right to appoint and remove directors and officers of the Association, the directors shall be elected by the members of the Association, with one (1) director elected from each Neighborhood, if established, by the vote of Owners within such Neighborhood only, and any remaining directorships filled at-large by the vote of all members. Three (3) directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and the remaining directors shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

At annual meetings of the Association thereafter, directors shall be elected to fill the vacancies of those directors whose terms are expiring as of such annual meeting. At the expiration of the term of office of each member of the Board of Directors, a successor shall be elected to serve for a term of two (2) years. Directors elected solely by votes of Owners within a certain Neighborhood shall be succeeded by a director elected solely by votes of Owners within that Neighborhood and directors elected

at-large shall be succeeded by directors also elected at-large.

Each member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote with respect to each vacancy to be filled from each slate on which such member is entitled to vote. There shall be no cumulative voting. The candidate(s) receiving the most votes shall be elected. The directors elected by the members shall hold office until their respective successors have been elected by the Association. Directors may be elected to serve any number of consecutive terms.

Section 6. Removal of Directors. 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 the vote of members holding a Majority of the votes entitled to be cast for the election of such director, and a successor may then and there be elected by the members entitled to elect the director to fill the vacancy thus created. A director whose removal has been proposed by the Owners shall be given at least ten (10) days' notice of the calling of the meeting and the purpose thereof and shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting.

Additionally, any director who has three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from Board meetings or who is delinquent in the payment of an assessment for more than twenty (20) days may be removed by a Majority vote of the directors at a meeting, a quorum being present, and a successor may be appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. If applicable, if the removed director was elected by the vote of Owners within a particular Neighborhood only, any director appointed by the Board to fill the position of the removed director shall be selected from the same Neighborhood as the removed director and shall serve for the remainder of the term of such director.

This Section shall not apply to directors appointed by Declarant.

Section 7. <u>Vacancies</u>. Vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by any reason, excluding the removal of a director by vote of the Association, 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. If applicable, if the director who vacated the position was elected by the vote of Owners within a particular Neighborhood only, any director appointed by the Board to fill the vacated position shall be selected from the same Neighborhood as the director who vacated the position and shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of such director.

#### B. Meetings.

Section 8. <u>Organization Meetings</u>. The first meeting of the members of the Board of Directors following each annual meeting

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of the membership shall be held within ten (10) days thereafter at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Board.

Section 9. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such time and place as shall be determined from time to time by a Majority of the directors, but at least four (4) such meetings shall be held during each fiscal year with at least one (1) per quarter. Notice of the regular schedule shall constitute sufficient notice of such meetings.

Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Section 10. Board of Directors shall be held when requested by the President, by the Vice President, or by a Majority of the directors. notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the nature of any special business to be considered. The notice shall be given to each director by one of the following methods: (a) personal delivery; (b) written notice by first class mail, postage prepaid; (c) telephone communication, either directly to the director or to a Person at the director's home or office who would reasonably be expected to communicate such notice promptly to the director; (d) telegram, charges prepaid; or (e) commercial delivery service to such director's home or office. All such All such notices shall be given or sent to the director's address or telephone number as shown on the records of the Association. Notices sent by first class mail shall be deposited into a United States mailbox at least four (4) days before the time set for the Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, or telegraph company shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time set for the meeting.

Section 11. <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. The transactions of any meeting of the Board of Directors, however called and noticed or wherever held, shall be as valid as though taken at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice, if (a) a quorum is present, and (b) either before or after the meeting, each of the directors not present signs a written waiver of notice, a consent to holding the meeting, or an approval of the minutes. The waiver of notice or consent need not specify the purpose of the meeting. Notice of a meeting shall also be deemed given to any director who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice.

Section 12. 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 13. <u>Compensation</u>. No director shall receive any compensation from the Association for acting as such unless approved by a Majority of the Total Association Vote.

Section 14. Open Meetings. All meetings of the Board shall be open to all members, but members other than directors may not participate in any discussion or deliberation unless expressly so authorized by the Board.

Section 15. <u>Executive Session</u>. 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.

Section 16. <u>Action Without A Formal Meeting</u>. Any action to be taken at a meeting of the directors or any action that may be taken at a meeting of the directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the directors.

Section 17. <u>Telephonic Participation</u>. One (1) 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 so participating shall be deemed present at such meeting. Any such meeting at which a quorum participates shall constitute a regular meeting of the Board.

#### C. <u>Powers and Duties</u>.

Section 18. <u>Powers</u>. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the affairs of the Association and shall have all of the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the Association's affairs and, as provided by law, may do all acts and things as are not by the Declaration, Articles, or these By-Laws directed to be done and exercised exclusively by the members. In addition to the duties imposed by these By-Laws or by any resolution of the Association that may hereafter be adopted, the Board of Directors shall have the power to and be responsible for the following, in way of explanation, but not limitation:

(a) preparation and adoption of an annual budget in which

there shall be established the contribution of each Owner to the Common Expenses and Neighborhood Expenses;

- (b) making assessments to defray the Common Expenses and Neighborhood Expenses, establishing the means and methods of collecting such assessments, and establishing the period of installment payments, if any, of assessments;
- (c) providing for the operation, care, upkeep, and maintenance of all areas which are the maintenance responsibility of the Association;
- (d) designating; hiring, and dismissing the personnel necessary for the operation of the Association 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 bank depository which it shall approve, and using the proceeds to administer the Association;
- (f) making and amending use restrictions and rules and regulations;
- (g) opening of bank accounts on behalf of the Association and designating the signatories required;
- (h) enforcing by legal means the provisions of the Declaration, any covenants applicable to a Neighborhood, these By-Laws, and the rules and regulations of the Association, and bringing any proceedings which may be instituted on behalf of or against the Owners concerning the Association;
- (i) obtaining and carrying insurance against casualties and liabilities, as provided in the Declaration, and paying the premium cost thereof;
- (j) paying the cost of all services rendered to the Association or its members which are not directly chargeable to Owners;
- (k) keeping books with detailed accounts of the receipts and expenditures affecting the Association and its administration, and specifying the maintenance and repair expenses and any other expenses incurred; and
- (1) 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, Neighborhoods, or other associations. Any and all functions of the Association shall be fully transferable by the Board, in whole or

in part, to any other entity.

Section 19. <u>Management Agent</u>. The Board of Directors may employ for the Association a professional management agent or agents at a compensation established by the Board of Directors 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. The term of any management agreement shall not exceed one (1) year and shall be subject to termination by either party, without cause and without penalty, upon ninety (90) days' written notice.

Section 20. Borrowing. The Association, acting through the Board of Directors, shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of maintenance, repair or restoration of the Common Property without the approval of the members of the Association. The Board shall also have the power to borrow money for other purposes; provided, however, the Board shall obtain member approval in the same manner provided in Article V, Section 5, of the Declaration for special assessments in the event that the proposed borrowing is for the purpose of modifying, improving, or adding amenities and the total amount of such borrowing exceeds or would exceed five percent (5%) of the budgeted gross expenses of the Association for that fiscal year. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Declaration, these By-Laws, or the Articles of Incorporation, during the time the Declarant has the right and power to appoint directors and officers of the Association, no Mortgage lien shall be placed on any portion of the Common Property without the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of at least a Majority of the Total Association Vote.

Section 21. <u>Fining Procedure</u>. The Board shall not impose a fine (a late charge shall not constitute a fine) unless and until the following procedure is followed:

- (a) <u>Demand</u>. Written demand to cease and desist from an alleged violation shall be served upon the alleged violator specifying:
  - (i) the alleged violation;
  - (ii) the action required to abate the violation; and
- (iii) a time period, not less than ten (10) days, during which the violation may be abated without further sanction, if such violation is a continuing one, or a statement that any further violation of the same rule may result in the imposition of a fine, if the violation is not continuing. The Board or its designee may demand immediate abatement in such circumstances which, in the Board's determination, pose a danger to safety or property.

- (b) <u>Notice</u>. Within twelve (12) months of such demand, if the violation continues past the period allowed in the demand for abatement without penalty, or if the same rule is subsequently violated, the Board may, upon notice, impose a fine. The notice shall state:
  - (i) the nature of the alleged violation;
- (ii) that the alleged violator may, within ten (10) days from the date of the notice, request a hearing regarding the fine;
- (iii) that any statements, evidence, and witnesses may be produced by the alleged violator at the hearing; and
- (iv) that all rights to have the fine reconsidered are waived if a hearing is not requested within ten (10) days of the date of the notice.
- (c) <u>Hearing</u>. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held before the Board in executive session, and the alleged violator shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The minutes of the meeting shall contain a written statement of the results of the hearing.

## Article IV Officers

- Section 1. <u>Officers</u>. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any two (2) or more offices may be held by the same Person, excepting the offices of President and Secretary. The President and Treasurer shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. <u>Election</u>, <u>Term of Office</u>, <u>and Vacancies</u>. Except during the period in which the Declarant has the right to appoint the officers of the Association under Article III, Section 2, of these By-Laws, the officers of the Association shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following each annual meeting of the members. A vacancy in any office arising because of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.
- Section 3. <u>Removal</u>. Any officer may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the Association will be served thereby.
- Section 4. <u>President</u>. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Association 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.

Section 5. <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 6. <u>Secretary</u>. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association 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 in accordance with Georgia law.

Section 7. <u>Treasurer</u>. The Treasurer shall have the responsibility for the Association's funds and securities and shall be responsible for keeping full and accurate financial records and books of account showing all receipts and disbursements, for preparing all required financial statements and tax returns, and for the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects in the name of the Association or the managing agent in such depositories as may from time to time be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. 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.

#### Article V Committees

Section 1. <u>General</u>. Committees to perform such tasks and to serve for such periods as may be designated by the Board are hereby authorized. Each committee shall be composed and shall operate in accordance with the terms of the resolution of the Board of Directors designating the committee or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. <u>Neighborhood Committees</u>. In addition to any other committees appointed as provided above, there shall be a Neighborhood Committee for each Neighborhood which has no formal organizational structure or association. Each Neighborhood Committee shall consist of three (3) members; provided, however, upon the vote of at least a Majority of the Owners within the Neighborhood, this number may be increased to five (5). A Neighborhood Committee may advise the Board on any issue, but shall not have the authority to bind the Board of Directors.

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the members of each Neighborhood Committee shall be elected by the vote of Owners of Lots within that Neighborhood at an annual meeting of such Owners. The first annual meeting for each Neighborhood shall be called by the Board not later than sixty (60) days after conveyance of a Majority of the Lots planned for the Neighborhood (as determined by the master plan of the Community prepared and amended from time to time by the Declarant) to Persons other than Declarant or a builder holding title solely for purposes of development and Prior to such time, the members of the Neighborhood Committee shall be selected by the Declarant acting in its sole discretion and shall serve at the pleasure of the Declarant. Election of a Neighborhood Committee may be held by mail-in ballot as described in Article II, Section 11, hereof sent out by the Board, for the initial election, or by the Neighborhood Committee, after the initial election. Each Owner shall have the number of votes assigned to his or her Lot(s) in the Declaration. Except for committee members appointed by the Declarant, committee members shall be elected for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected. Any director elected to the Board of Directors by the vote of Owners within a particular Neighborhood only, as provided in Article III, Section 5, hereof, shall be an ex officio member of the Neighborhood Committee for such Neighborhood.

The Owners of Lots within the Neighborhood holding at least a Majority of the total votes of Lots in the Neighborhood, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Neighborhood. In the conduct of its duties and responsibilities, each Neighborhood Committee shall abide by the procedures and requirements applicable to the Board of Directors set forth in Article III, Sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, of these By-Laws; provided, however, the term "member" shall refer to the Owners of Lots within the Neighborhood and the terms "directors," "Board," and "Board of Directors" shall refer to the members of the Neighborhood Committee. Each Neighborhood Committee shall elect a chairman from among its members who shall preside at its meetings and who shall be responsible for transmitting any and all communications to the Board of Directors.

### Article VI Miscellaneous

Section 1. <u>Fiscal Year</u>. The fiscal year of the Association shall be determined by resolution of the Board. In the absence of such a resolution, the fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

Section 2. <u>Parliamentary Rules</u>. <u>Roberts Rules of Order</u> (current edition) shall govern the conduct of all Association proceedings, when not in conflict with Georgia law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Declaration, these By-Laws, or a ruling made by

the Person presiding over the proceeding.

Section 3. <u>Conflicts</u> If there are conflicts or inconsistencies between the provisions of Georgia law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Declaration, and these By-Laws, the provisions of Georgia law, the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, and the By-Laws (in that order) shall prevail.

Section 4. <u>Notices</u>. Unless otherwise provided in these By-Laws, all notices, demands, bills, statements, or other communications under the Declaration and these By-Laws shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered personally or if sent by United States Mail, first class postage prepaid:

- (a) if to a member of the Association, at the address which the member has designated in writing and filed with the Secretary of the Association or, if no such address has been designated, at the address of the Lot of such member; or
- (b) if to the Association, the Board of Directors, or the managing agent, at the principal office of the Association or the managing agent, if any, or at such other address as shall be designated by notice in writing to the members of the Association pursuant to this Section.

Section 5. Amendment. The provisions of the Declaration applicable to amendment of that instrument shall apply to any amendment of these By-Laws; provided, however, that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") (if it is then guaranteeing any Mortgage in the Community as determined by telephone inquiry to VA) and/or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") (if it is then insuring any Mortgage in the Community as determined by consulting the current list of approved subdivisions regularly published by HUD and furnished to Mortgage companies) shall have the right to approve material amendments to these By-Laws for as long as the Declarant has the right to appoint and remove the directors and officers of the Association.

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### Rules Of Arbitration

- 1. Claimant shall submit a Claim to arbitration under these Rules by giving written notice to all other Parties stating plainly and concisely the nature of the Claim, the remedy sought and Claimant's desire to submit the Claim to arbitration ("Arbitration Notice").
- 2. Each Party shall select an arbitrator ("Party Appointed Arbitrator"). The Party Appointed Arbitrators shall, by agreement, select one or two neutral arbitrators ("Neutral(s)") so that the total arbitration panel ("Panel") has an odd number of arbitrators. If any Party fails to appoint a Party Appointed Arbitrator within twenty (20) days from the date of the Arbitration Notice, the remaining arbitrators shall conduct the proceedings, selecting a Neutral in place of any missing Party Appointed Arbitrator. The Neutral arbitrator(s) shall select a chairperson ("Chair").
- 3. If the Panel is not selected under Rule 2 within forty-five (45) days from the date of the Arbitration Notice, Claimant may notify the Georgia chapter of The Community Associations Institute, which shall appoint one Neutral ("Appointed Neutral"), notifying the Appointed Neutral and all Parties in writing of such appointment. The Appointed Neutral shall thereafter be the sole arbitrator ("Arbitrator"), and any Party Appointed Arbitrators or their designees shall have no further duties involving the arbitration proceedings.
- 4. No person may serve as a Neutral in any arbitration under these Rules in which that person has any financial or personal interest in the result of the arbitration. Any person designated as a Neutral shall immediately disclose in writing to all Parties any circumstance likely to affect impartiality, including any bias or financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration ("Bias Disclosure"). If any Party objects to the service of any Neutral after receipt of that Neutral's Bias Disclosure, such Neutral shall be replaced in the same manner in which that Neutral was selected.
- 5. The Arbitrator or Chair, as the case may be ("Arbitrator") shall fix the date, time and place for the hearing. The place of the hearing shall be within the Properties unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.
- 6. Any Party may be represented by an attorney or other authorized representative throughout the arbitration proceedings.
  - All persons who, in the judgment of the Arbitrator,

have a direct interest in the arbitration are entitled to attend hearings.

- 8. There shall be no stenographic record of the proceedings.
- 9. The hearing shall be conducted in whatever manner will, in the Arbitrator's judgment, most fairly and expeditiously permit the full presentation of the evidence and arguments of the Parties.
- 10. The Parties may offer such evidence as is relevant and material to the Claim, and shall produce such additional evidence as the Arbitrator may deem necessary to an understanding and determination of the Claim. The Arbitrator shall be the sole judge of the relevance and materiality of any evidence offered, and conformity to the legal rules of evidence shall not be necessary. The Arbitrator shall be authorized, but not required, to administer oaths to witnesses.
- 11. The Arbitrator shall declare the hearings closed when satisfied the record is complete.
  - 12. There will be no posthearing briefs.
- 13. The Award shall be rendered immediately following the close of the hearing, if possible, and no later than fourteen (14) days from the close of the hearing, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. The Award shall be in writing, shall be signed by the Arbitrator and acknowledged before a notary public. If the Arbitrator believes an opinion is necessary, it shall be in summary form.
- 14. If there is more than one arbitrator, all decisions of the Panel and the Award shall be by Majority vote.
- 15. Each Party agrees to accept as legal delivery of the Award the deposit of a true copy in the mail addressed to that Party or its attorney at the address communicated to the Arbitrator at the hearing.

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