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DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS  
FOR  
SWEET PINE CREEK

FILED AND RECORDED

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- 1.5. "Builder": Any Person who purchases one or more Units for the purpose of constructing improvements for later sale to consumers in the ordinary course of such Person's business.
- 1.6. "By-Laws": The By-Laws of Sweet Pine Creek Community Association, Inc., attached as Exhibit "D," as they may be amended.
- 1.7. "Class "B" Control Period": The period of time during which the Class "B" Member is entitled to appoint a majority of the members of the Board of Directors as provided in Section 3.3 of the By-Laws.
- 1.8. "Common Area": All real and personal property, including easements, which the Association owns, leases or otherwise holds possessory or use rights in for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners.
- 1.9. "Common Expenses": The actual and estimated expenses incurred, or anticipated to be incurred, by the Association, including any reasonable reserve, as the Board may find necessary and appropriate pursuant to this Declaration, the By-Laws, and the Articles of Incorporation. Common Expenses shall not include any expenses incurred during the Class "B" Control Period for initial development, original construction, installation of infrastructure, original capital improvements, or other original construction costs unless approved by Members representing a majority of the total Class "A" vote of the Association.
- 1.10. "Community-Wide Standard": The standard of conduct, maintenance, or other activity generally prevailing throughout the Properties. Such standard shall initially be established by the Declarant and may be more specifically determined by the Board of Directors and the Architectural Review Committee.
- 1.11. "Covenant to Share Costs": Any agreement or contract between the Association and an owner or operator of property adjacent to the Properties for the allocation of expenses that benefit both the Association and the owner or operator of such property.
- 1.12. "Declarant": JHA Enterprises, Inc., a Georgia corporation, or any successor, successor-in-title, or assign who takes title to any portion of the property described on Exhibit "A" or "B" for the purpose of development and/or resale and who is designated as the Declarant in a recorded instrument executed by the immediately preceding Declarant, provided, there shall be only one Person entitled to exercise the rights and powers of the "Declarant" hereunder at any one time.
- 1.13. "Design Guidelines": The design and construction guidelines and application and review procedures applicable to the Properties promulgated and administered pursuant to Article IX.
- 1.14. "General Assessment": Assessments levied on all Units subject to assessment under Article VIII to fund Common Expenses for the general benefit of all Units, as more particularly described in Sections 8.1 and 8.3.
- 1.15. "Master Plan": The preliminary land use plan for the development of the "Sweet Pine Creek Tract" prepared by Franzman/Davis & Associates, Ltd., of Atlanta, Georgia, dated April 14, 1993, as it may be amended from time to time, which plan includes the property described on Exhibit "A" and all or a portion of the property described on Exhibit "B." Inclusion of property on the Master Plan shall not, under any circumstances, obligate Declarant to subject such property to this Declaration, nor shall the exclusion of property described on Exhibit "B" from the Master Plan bar its later annexation in accordance with Article VII.
- 1.16. "Member": A Person subject to membership in the Association pursuant to Section 3.2.

1.17. "Mortgage": A mortgage, a deed of trust, a deed to secure debt, or any other form of security instrument affecting title to any Unit.

1.18. "Mortgagee": A beneficiary or holder of a Mortgage.

1.19. "Mortgagor": Any Person who gives a Mortgage.

1.20. "Owner": One or more Persons who hold the record title to any Unit, but excluding in all cases any party holding an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation. If a Unit is sold under a recorded contract of sale, and the contract specifically so provides, the purchaser (rather than the fee owner) will be considered the Owner.

1.21. "Person": A natural person, a corporation, a partnership, a trustee, or any other legal entity.

1.22. "Properties": The real property described on Exhibit "A," together with such additional property as is subjected to this Declaration in accordance with Article VII.

1.23. "Public Records": The Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Cobb County, Georgia, or such other place which is designated as the official location for recording of deeds and similar documents affecting title to real estate.

1.24. "Special Assessment": Assessments levied in accordance with Section 8.5.

1.25. "Specific Assessment": Assessments levied in accordance with Section 8.6.

1.26. "Supplemental Declaration": An instrument filed in the Public Records pursuant to Article VII which subjects additional property to this Declaration and/or imposes, expressly or by reference, additional restrictions and obligations on the land described in such instrument.

1.27. "Unit": A portion of the Properties, whether improved or unimproved, which may be independently owned and conveyed and which is intended for development, use, and occupancy as a residence for a single family. The term shall include within its meaning, by way of illustration but not limitation, each numbered lot shown on a subdivision plat filed in the Public Records with respect to any portion of the Properties, together with the structures, if any, constructed thereon, as well as vacant land intended for further subdivision, but shall not include Common Areas or property dedicated to the public.

1.28. "Use Restrictions and Rules": Those use restrictions and rules affecting the Properties, which may be adopted, modified and repealed as set forth in Article X. The initial Use Restrictions and Rules are set forth on Exhibit "C."

## Article II PROPERTY RIGHTS

2.1. Common Area. Every Owner shall have a right and nonexclusive easement of use, access, and enjoyment in and to the Common Area, subject to:

(a) this Declaration and any other applicable covenants;

(b) any restrictions or limitations contained in any deed conveying such property to the Association;

(c) the right of the Board and the membership to adopt, amend and repeal rules pursuant to Article X regulating the use and enjoyment of the Common Area, including rules limiting the number of guests who may use the Common Area;

(d) the right of the Board to impose reasonable membership requirements, adopt a code of rules governing use of any structure or improvement on the Common Area, and charge reasonable admission or other use fees for the use of any recreational or social facilities situated upon the Common Area;

(e) the right of the Board to permit use of any recreational or social facilities situated on the Common Area by persons other than Owners, their families, lessees and guests upon payment of such use fees as the Board may establish;

(f) the right of the Board to suspend the right of an Owner to use recreational and social facilities within the Common Area (i) for any period during which any charge against such Owner's Unit remains delinquent, and (ii) for a period not to exceed 30 days for a single violation or for a longer period in the case of any continuing violation, of the Declaration, any applicable Supplemental Declaration, the By-Laws, or rules of the Association after notice and a hearing pursuant to Section 3.24 of the By-Laws;

(g) the right of the Association, acting through the Board, to dedicate or transfer all or any part of the Common Area, subject to such approval requirements as may be set forth in this Declaration; and

(h) the right of the Association, acting through the Board, to mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate any or all of its real or personal property as security for money borrowed or debts incurred.

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

2.2. No Partition. Except as permitted in this Declaration, there shall be no judicial partition of the Common Area. No Person shall seek any judicial partition unless the portion of the Common Area which is the subject of such partition action has been removed from the provisions of this Declaration. This Article shall not prohibit the Board from acquiring and disposing of tangible personal property nor from acquiring and disposing of real property which may or may not be subject to this Declaration.

2.3. Condemnation. If any part of the Common Area shall be taken by any authority having the power of condemnation or eminent domain, or conveyed in lieu of and under threat of condemnation, each Owner shall be entitled to written notice prior to disbursement of the condemnation award or proceeds of the conveyance. The Award made for such taking or proceeds of such conveyance shall be payable to the Association to be disbursed as follows:

If the taking or conveyance involves a portion of the Common Area on which improvements have been constructed, the Association shall restore or replace such improvements on the remaining land included in the Common Area to the extent available, unless within 60 days after such taking the Declarant, so long as the Declarant owns any property described in Exhibits "A" and "B" of this Declaration, and Members representing at least 75% of the total Class "A" vote of the Association shall otherwise agree. Any such construction shall be in accordance with plans approved by the Board. The provisions of Section 6.1(c) regarding funds for the repair of damage or destruction shall apply.

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

**Article III**  
**MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS**

3.1. Function of Association. The Association shall be the entity responsible for management, maintenance, operation and control of the Area of Common Responsibility. The Association shall be the primary entity responsible for enforcement of this Declaration and such reasonable rules regulating use of the Properties as the Board or the membership may adopt pursuant to Article X. The Association shall also be responsible for administering and enforcing the architectural standards and controls set forth in this Declaration and in the Design Guidelines. The Association shall perform its functions in accordance with this Declaration, the By-Laws, the Articles and the laws of the State of Georgia.

3.2. Membership. Every Owner shall be a Member of the Association. There shall be only one membership per Unit. If a Unit is owned by more than one Person, all co-Owners shall share the privileges of such membership, subject to reasonable Board regulation and the restrictions on voting set forth in Section 3.3 and in the By-Laws. All co-Owners shall be jointly and severally obligated to perform the responsibilities of Owners. The membership rights of an Owner which is not a natural person may be exercised by any officer, director, partner or trustee, or by the individual designated from time to time by the Owner in a written instrument provided to the Secretary of the Association.

3.3. Voting. The Association shall have two classes of membership, Class "A" and Class "B."

(a) Class "A". Class "A" Members shall be all Owners except the Class "B" Member, if any.

Class "A" Members shall have one equal vote for each Unit in which they hold the interest required for membership under Section 3.2; provided, there shall be only one vote per Unit and no vote shall be exercised for any property exempt from assessment under Section 8.10. Notwithstanding the above, the Owner of two contiguous Units, as shown on the final subdivision plat recorded in the Public Records, on which one single family residential dwelling is constructed which crosses the boundary line separating the Units, shall have only one vote for such Units. If a dwelling is not constructed on such Units or if the dwelling does not cross the boundary line separating such Units, the Owner of such contiguous Units shall be entitled to one vote per Unit. In any situation where there is more than one Owner of a Unit, the vote for such Unit shall be exercised as the co-Owners determine among themselves and advise the Secretary of the Association in writing prior to the vote being taken. Absent such advice, the Unit's vote shall be suspended if more than one Person seeks to exercise it.

(b) Class "B". The sole Class "B" Member shall be the Declarant. The rights of the Class "B" Member, including the right to approve, or withhold approval of, actions proposed under this Declaration, the By-Laws and the Articles, are specified in the relevant sections of this Declaration, the By-Laws and the Articles. The Class "B" Member may appoint the members of the Board of Directors during the Class "B" Control Period, as specified in Sections 3.3 and 3.5 of the By-Laws. After termination of the Class "B" Control Period, the Class "B" Member shall have a right to disapprove actions of the Board and committees as provided in Section 3.19 of the By-Laws.

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The Class "B" membership shall terminate two years after expiration of the Class "B" Control Period pursuant to Article III of the By-Laws unless the Declarant voluntarily terminates such membership earlier by filing a written notice of termination in the Public Records. Upon termination of the Class "B" membership, the Declarant shall be a Class "A" Member entitled to Class "A" votes for each Unit which it owns.

**Article IV**  
**RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

4.1. Common Area. The Association, subject to the rights of the Owners set forth in this Declaration, shall manage and control the Common Area and all improvements thereon (including, without limitation, landscaping, furnishings, equipment, and other personal property of the Association used in connection with the Common Area), and shall keep it in good, clean, attractive, and sanitary condition, order, and repair, pursuant to this Declaration and the By-Laws and consistent with the Community-Wide Standard. The Board is specifically authorized, but is not obligated, to retain or employ professional management to assist in carrying out the Association's responsibilities under this Declaration, the cost of which shall be a Common Expense.

4.2. Personal Property and Real Property for Common Use. The Association, through action of its Board, may acquire, hold, and dispose of tangible and intangible personal property and real property. The Declarant and its designees may convey to the Association improved or unimproved real estate, or interests in real estate, located within the properties described in Exhibits "A" or "B," personal property and leasehold and other property interests. Such property shall be accepted by the Association and thereafter shall be maintained by the Association at its expense for the benefit of its Members, subject to any restrictions set forth in the deed or other instrument transferring such property to the Association.

4.3. Enforcement. The Association may impose sanctions for violations of this Declaration, any applicable Supplemental Declaration, the By-Laws, or Association rules in accordance with procedures set forth in the By-Laws, including reasonable monetary fines and suspension of the right to vote and to use any recreational or social facilities within the Common Area. In addition, in accordance with Section 3.24 of the By-Laws, the Association may exercise self-help to cure violations and may suspend any services it provides to the Unit of any Owner who is more than 30 days delinquent in paying any assessment or other charge due to the Association. All remedies set forth in this Declaration and the By-Laws shall be cumulative of any remedies available at law or in equity. In any action to enforce the provisions of this Declaration or Association rules, if the Association prevails it shall be entitled to recover all costs, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and court costs, reasonably incurred in such action.

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

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

4.4. Implied Rights; Board Authority. The Association may exercise any right or privilege given to it expressly by this Declaration or the By-Laws, or reasonably implied from or reasonably necessary to effectuate

any such right or privilege. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Declaration, the By-Laws, the Articles, or by law, all rights and powers of the Association may be exercised by the Board without a vote of the membership.

4.5. Governmental Interests. For so long as the Declarant owns any property described on Exhibit "A" or "B," the Declarant may designate sites within the Properties for public or quasi-public facilities. The sites may include Common Area, in which case the Association shall take whatever action is required with respect to such site to permit such use, including conveyance of the site, if so directed by Declarant. The sites may include other property not owned by Declarant provided the owner consents.

4.6. Indemnification. The Association shall indemnify every officer, director, and committee member, including members of the committees established under Article IX, against all damages and expenses, including attorneys' fees, reasonably incurred in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any suit or proceeding, if approved by the then Board of Directors) to which he or she may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer, director, or committee member, except that such obligation to indemnify shall be limited to those actions for which liability is limited under this Section and Georgia law.

The officers, directors, and committee members shall not be liable for any mistake of judgment, negligent or otherwise, except for their own individual willful misfeasance, malfeasance, misconduct, or bad faith. The officers and directors shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made or action taken in good faith on behalf of the Association (except to the extent that such officers or directors may also be Members of the Association). The Association shall indemnify and forever hold each such officer, director and committee member harmless from any and all liability to others on account of any such contract, commitment or action. This right to indemnification shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any present or former officer, director, or committee member may be entitled. The Association shall, as a Common Expense, maintain adequate general liability and officers' and directors' liability insurance to fund this obligation, if such insurance is reasonably available.

4.7. Dedication of Common Area. The Association may dedicate portions of the Common Area to the City of Marietta or to Cobb County, Georgia, or to any other local, state, or federal governmental or quasi-governmental entity.

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

4.9. Utility Lines. Each Owner, occupant, guest, and invitee acknowledges that neither the Association, the Board nor Declarant shall in any way be considered insurers or guarantors of health

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within the Properties and neither the Association, the Board, nor Declarant shall be held liable for any personal injury, illness or any other loss or damage caused by the presence or malfunction of utility lines or utility sub-stations adjacent to, near, over, or on the Properties. Each Owner, occupant, guest, and invitee assumes all risk of personal injury, illness, or other loss or damage arising from the presence of utility lines or utility sub-stations and further acknowledges that neither Declarant nor the Association have made any representations or warranties, nor has any Owner, occupant, guest, or invitee relied upon any representations or warranties, expressed or implied, relative to the condition or impact of utility lines or utility sub-stations.

4.10. Use of the Common Area by the Ayer Family and Successors-in-Title. For so long as that certain tract of land (or any portion thereof), that is currently owned by Rebecca D. Ayer for the Ayer family's personal residence and shown on the Master Plan as a 3.57 acre 'out' parcel, is being used for single family residential purposes by the Ayer family or any member thereof, the Association shall permit the owner of such tract, the owner's family members and their guests to use the recreational facilities situated upon the Common Area. The use of the recreational facilities by the owner of said tract, the owner's family and their guests shall be subject to the payment of a reasonable user fee to be determined by the Board, which fee shall approximate the cost to each Owner to maintain and operate the recreational facilities.

## Article V MAINTENANCE

### 5.1. Association's Responsibility.

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

- (i) all Common Area;
- (ii) all landscaping and other flora, parks, bridges, swimming pools, tennis courts, recreational centers and other structures and improvements, including any parking areas, situated upon the Common Area;
- (iii) all landscaping, entry features and signage within or adjacent to public rights-of-way within or abutting the Properties; and
- (iv) such portions of any additional property included within the Area of Common Responsibility as may be dictated by this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, or any contract or agreement for maintenance thereof entered into by the Association.

The Association may maintain other property which it does not own, including, without limitation, storm drainage facilities, and other property dedicated to the public, if the Board of Directors determines that such maintenance is necessary or desirable to maintain the Community-Wide Standard.

(b) There are hereby reserved to the Association perpetual, non-exclusive easements over the Properties as necessary to enable the Association to fulfill such responsibilities.

(c) Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, all costs associated with maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Area of Common Responsibility shall be a Common Expense to be allocated among all Units as part of the General Assessment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may, within its sole discretion,

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allocate the expense of maintenance, repair, and replacement which benefits one or more, but less than all Units, as a Specific Assessment in accordance with the benefit so received by such Units, pursuant to Section 8.6.

5.2. Owner's Responsibility. Each Owner shall maintain his or her Unit and all structures, parking areas, and other improvements comprising the Unit in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard, unless such maintenance responsibility is otherwise assumed by or assigned to the Association pursuant to this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration or other covenants applicable to such Unit.

Owners shall not permit any structures, equipment or other items on the exterior portions of a Unit to become rusty, dilapidated or otherwise fall into disrepair. In addition to any other enforcement rights, if an Owner fails properly to perform his or her maintenance responsibility, the Association may perform such maintenance responsibilities and assess all costs incurred by the Association against the Unit and the Owner in accordance with Section 8.6. The Association shall afford the Owner reasonable notice and an opportunity to cure the problem prior to entry, except when entry is required due to an emergency situation.

5.3. Standard of Performance. All maintenance shall be performed in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard and all applicable covenants. Maintenance shall include the responsibility for repair and replacement as necessary. The Association shall not be liable for any damage or injury occurring on, or arising out of the condition of, property which it does not own except to the extent that it has been negligent in the performance of its maintenance responsibilities.

5.4. Party Walls and Similar Structures. Each wall, fence or similar structure built as a part of the original construction on the Units which serves and/or separates any two adjoining Units shall constitute a party structure. To the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of this Section, the general rules of law regarding party walls and liability for property damage due to negligence or willful acts or omissions shall apply thereto.

## Article VI INSURANCE AND CASUALTY LOSSES

### 6.1. Association Insurance.

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

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

(ii) Commercial general liability insurance on the Area of Common Responsibility, insuring the Association and its Members for damage or injury caused by the negligence of the Association or any of its Members, employees, agents, or contractors while acting on its behalf. If generally available at reasonable cost,



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

- (i) a waiver of subrogation as to any claims against the Association's Board, officers, employees, and its manager, the Owners and their tenants, servants, agents, and guests;
- (ii) a waiver of the insurer's rights to repair and reconstruct instead of paying cash;
- (iii) an endorsement precluding cancellation, invalidation, suspension, or non-renewal by the insurer on account of any one or more individual Owners, or on account of any curable defect or violation without prior written demand to the Association to cure the defect or violation and allowance of a reasonable time to cure;
- (iv) an endorsement excluding Owners' individual policies from consideration under any "other insurance" clause;
- (v) an endorsement requiring at least 30 days' prior written notice to the Association of any cancellation, substantial modification, or non-renewal;
- (vi) a cross liability provision; and
- (vii) a provision vesting in the Board exclusive authority to adjust losses; provided, however, no Mortgagee having an interest in such losses may be prohibited from participating in the settlement negotiations, if any, related to the loss.

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

Any damage to or destruction of the Common Area shall be repaired or reconstructed unless the Members representing at least 75% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, and the Class "B" Member, if any, decide within 60 days after the loss not to repair or reconstruct.

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

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

Any insurance proceeds remaining after paying the costs of repair or reconstruction, or after such settlement as is necessary and appropriate, shall be retained by and for the benefit of the Association and placed in a capital

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improvements account. This is a covenant for the benefit of Mortgagees and may be enforced by the Mortgagee of any affected Unit.

If insurance proceeds are insufficient to cover the costs of repair or reconstruction, the Board of Directors may, without a vote of the Members, levy a Special Assessment to cover the shortfall.

6.2. Owners' Insurance. By virtue of taking title to a Unit, each Owner covenants and agrees with all other Owners and with the Association to carry property insurance for the full replacement cost of all insurable improvements on his or her Unit, less a reasonable deductible. Each Owner further covenants and agrees that in the event of damage to or destruction of structures on or comprising his Unit, the Owner shall proceed promptly to repair or to reconstruct in a manner consistent with the original construction or such other plans and specifications as are approved in accordance with Article IX. Alternatively, the Owner shall clear the Unit of all debris and ruins and maintain the Unit in a neat and attractive, landscaped condition consistent with the Community-Wide Standard. The Owner shall pay any costs which are not covered by insurance proceeds.

## Article VII ANNEXATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF PROPERTY

7.1. Annexation Without Approval of Membership. Declarant may from time to time within 20 years of recording this Declaration in the Public Records unilaterally subject to the provisions of this Declaration all or any portion of the real property described in Exhibit "B." The Declarant may transfer or assign this right to annex property, provided that the transferee or assignee is the developer of at least a portion of the real property described in Exhibits "A" or "B" and that such transfer is memorialized in a written, recorded instrument executed by Declarant.

Such annexation shall be accomplished by filing a Supplemental Declaration in the Public Records describing the property being annexed. Such Supplemental Declaration shall not require the consent of Members, but shall require the consent of the owner of such property, if other than Declarant. Any such annexation shall be effective upon the filing for record of such Supplemental Declaration unless otherwise provided therein.

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed to require the Declarant or any successor to annex or develop any of the property set forth in Exhibit "B" in any manner whatsoever.

7.2. Annexation With Approval of Membership. The Association may annex any real property to the provisions of this Declaration with the consent of the owner of such property, the affirmative vote of Members representing a majority of the Class "A" votes of the Association represented at a meeting duly called for such purpose, and the consent of the Declarant so long as Declarant owns property subject to this Declaration or which may become subject to this Declaration in accordance with Section 7.1.

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

7.3. Withdrawal of Property. The Declarant reserves the right to amend this Declaration so long as it has a right to annex additional property pursuant to Section 7.1, for the purpose of removing any portion of the Properties from the coverage of this Declaration, provided such withdrawal is not unequivocally contrary to the

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overall, uniform scheme of development for the Properties. Such amendment shall not require the consent of any Person other than the Owner of the property to be withdrawn, if not the Declarant.

7.4. Additional Covenants and Easements. The Declarant may subject any portion of the Properties to additional covenants and easements by filing a Supplemental Declaration in the Public Records, concurrent with or after the annexation of the subject property, setting forth such additional covenants and easements. Any such Supplemental Declaration shall require the written consent of the owner(s) of the subject property, if other than the Declarant. Any such Supplemental Declaration may supplement, create exceptions to, or otherwise modify the terms of this Declaration as it applies to the subject property in order to reflect the different character and intended use of such property.

7.5. Amendment. This Article shall not be amended without the prior written consent of Declarant so long as the Declarant owns any property described in Exhibits "A" or "B."

### Article VIII ASSESSMENTS

#### 8.1. Creation of and Obligation for Assessments.

(a) Purposes and Types. There are hereby created, and the Association is hereby authorized to levy, assessments for the Common Expenses of the Association. There shall be three types of assessments: (a) General Assessments as described in Section 8.3; (b) Special Assessments as described in Section 8.5; and (c) Specific Assessments as described in Section 8.6. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or entering into a recorded contract of sale for any portion of the Properties, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay these assessments.

(b) Personal Obligation and Lien. All assessments, together with interest (computed from the due date of such assessment at a rate of 16% per annum, subject to the limitations of Georgia law), late charges in such amount as the Board may establish by resolution (subject to the limitations of Georgia law), costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees, shall be a charge and continuing lien upon each Unit against which the assessment is made until paid, as more particularly provided in Section 8.7. Each such assessment, together with interest, late charges, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees, also shall be the personal obligation of the Person who was the Owner of such Unit at the time the assessment arose. Upon a transfer of title to a Unit, the grantee shall be jointly and severally liable for any assessments and other charges due at the time of conveyance. However, no first Mortgagee who obtains title to a Unit by exercising the remedies provided in its Mortgage shall be liable for unpaid assessments which accrued prior to such acquisition of title.

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

Assessments shall be paid in such manner and on such dates as the Board may establish, which may include discounts for early payment or similar time/price differentials. The Board may require advance payment of assessments at closing of the transfer of title to a Unit and impose special requirements for Owners with a history of delinquent payment. The General Assessment shall be an annual assessment due and payable in advance on the first day of each fiscal year; provided, the Board may by resolution permit payment in two or

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more installments. If any Owner is delinquent in paying any assessments or other charges levied on his Unit, the Board may require any unpaid installments of all outstanding assessments to be paid in full immediately.

No Owner may exempt himself from liability for assessments by non-use of Common Area, abandonment of his Unit, or any other means. The obligation to pay assessments is a separate and independent covenant on the part of each Owner. No diminution or abatement of assessments or set-off shall be claimed or allowed for any alleged failure of the Association or Board to take some action or perform some function required of it, or for inconvenience or discomfort arising from the making of repairs or improvements, or from any other action it takes.

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

8.2. Declarant's Obligation for Assessments. During the Class "B" Control Period, Declarant may annually elect either to pay assessments on all of its unsold Units or to pay the difference between the amount of assessments levied on all other Units subject to assessment and the amount of actual expenditures by the Association during the fiscal year; provided, regardless of the Declarant's election, the Declarant's Units shall be considered in computing the General Assessment rate under Section 8.3. Unless the Declarant otherwise notifies the Board in writing at least 60 days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Declarant shall be deemed to have elected to continue paying on the same basis as during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The Declarant's obligations hereunder may be satisfied in the form of cash or by "in kind" contributions of services or materials, or by a combination of these. After termination of the Class "B" Control Period, the Declarant shall pay assessments on its unsold Units in the same manner as any other Owner.

8.3. Computation of General Assessments. At least 60 days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a budget covering the estimated Common Expenses during the coming year, including a capital contribution to establish a reserve fund in accordance with a budget separately prepared as provided in Section 8.4.

General Assessments shall be fixed at a uniform rate for all Units; provided, however, the Owner of two contiguous Units, as shown on the final subdivision plat recorded in the Public Records, on which one single family residential dwelling is constructed which crosses the boundary line separating such Units, shall pay one General Assessment rate equal to one and one-half times the assessment for an individual Unit. If the dwelling constructed does not cross the boundary line separating such Units, each contiguous Unit shall be assessed at the uniform rate for all Units. The assessment rate shall be set at a level which is reasonably expected to produce total income for the Association equal to the total budgeted Common Expenses, including reserves. In determining the total funds to be generated through the levy of General Assessments, the Board, in its discretion, may consider other sources of funds available to the Association, including any surplus from prior years and any assessment income expected to be generated from any additional Units reasonably anticipated to become subject to partial or full assessment during the fiscal year.

So long as the Declarant has the right unilaterally to annex additional property pursuant to Section 7.1, the Declarant may, but shall not be obligated to, reduce the General Assessment for any fiscal year by payment of a subsidy (in addition to any amounts paid by Declarant under Section 8.2), which may be treated as either a contribution or an advance against future assessments due from the Declarant, in the Declarant's discretion. Any such subsidy shall be conspicuously disclosed as a line item in the Common Expense budget and the treatment of such subsidy shall be made known to the membership. The payment of such subsidy in any year

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shall under no circumstances obligate the Declarant to continue payment of such subsidy in future years, unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between the Association and the Declarant.

The Board shall send a copy of the budget and notice of the amount of the General Assessment for the upcoming year to each Owner at least 30 days prior to the effective date of such budget. Such budget and assessment shall become effective unless disapproved at a meeting by Members representing at least 75% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association and by the Class "B" Member, if such exists. If the budget proves inadequate for any reason, the Board may prepare a revised budget for the remainder of the fiscal year, which revised budget shall become effective unless disapproved at a meeting by Members in the same manner as prescribed for the initial budget. There shall be no obligation to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the budget or any revised budget except on petition of the Members as required for special meetings in the By-Laws, which petition must be presented to the Board within 10 days after delivery of the notice of assessments.

If a budget is not adopted for any year, then until such time as a budget is adopted, the budget in effect for the immediately preceding year shall continue for the current year.

8.4. Reserve Budget and Capital Contribution. The Board shall annually prepare a reserve budget which takes into account the number and nature of replaceable assets within the Area of Common Responsibility, the expected life of each asset, and the expected repair or replacement cost. The Board shall set the required capital contribution in an amount sufficient to permit meeting the projected needs of the Association, as shown on the budget, with respect both to amount and timing by annual General Assessments over the budget period.

8.5. Special Assessments. In addition to other authorized assessments, the Association may levy Special Assessments from time to time to cover unbudgeted, extraordinary or other expenses which the Board determines to be more appropriately handled outside of the regular operating budget. So long as the total amount of Special Assessments allocable to a Unit does not exceed \$250.00 in any one fiscal year, the Board may impose the Special Assessment. Except as provided in Section 6.1(c), any Special Assessment which would cause the amount of Special Assessments allocable to any Unit to exceed this limitation shall require the affirmative vote or written consent of Members representing at least 51% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, and the affirmative vote or written consent of the Class "B" Member, if such exists. Special Assessments shall be payable in such manner and at such times as determined by the Board, and may be payable in installments extending beyond the fiscal year in which the Special Assessment is approved. Special Assessments shall be levied in the same allocation as provided for General Assessments.

8.6. Specific Assessments. The Association shall have the power to levy Specific Assessments against a particular Unit as follows:

(a) to cover the costs, including overhead and administrative costs, of providing benefits, items, or services to the Unit or occupants thereof upon request of the Owner pursuant to a menu of special services which the Board may from time to time authorize to be offered to Owners and occupants (which might include, without limitation, landscape maintenance, pest control, etc.), which assessments may be levied in advance of the provision of the requested benefit, item or service as a deposit against charges to be incurred by the Owner; and

(b) to cover costs incurred in bringing the Unit into compliance with the terms of this Declaration, any applicable Supplemental Declaration, the By-Laws or rules, or costs incurred as a consequence of the conduct of the Owner or occupants of the Unit, their agents, contractors, employees, licensees, invitees, or guests;

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provided, the Board shall give the Unit Owner prior written notice and an opportunity for a hearing, in accordance with Section 3.24 of the By-Laws, before levying any Specific Assessment under this subsection (b).

8.7. Lien for Assessments. The Association shall have a lien against each Unit to secure payment of delinquent assessments, as well as interest, late charges (subject to the limitations of Georgia law), and costs of collection (including attorneys' fees). Such lien shall be superior to all other liens, except (a) the liens of all taxes, bonds, assessments, and other levies which by law would be superior, and (b) the lien or charge of any first Mortgage of record (meaning any recorded Mortgage with first priority over other Mortgages) made in good faith and for value. Such lien, when delinquent, may be enforced by suit, judgment, and foreclosure in the same manner as mortgages are foreclosed under Georgia law.

The Association may bid for the Unit at the foreclosure sale and acquire, hold, lease, mortgage, and convey the Unit. While a Unit is owned by the Association following foreclosure: (a) no right to vote shall be exercised on its behalf; (b) no assessment shall be levied on it; and (c) each other Unit shall be charged, in addition to its usual assessment, its pro rata share of the assessment that would have been charged such Unit had it not been acquired by the Association. The Association may sue for unpaid assessments and other charges authorized hereunder without foreclosing or waiving the lien securing the same.

The sale or transfer of any Unit shall not affect the assessment lien or relieve such Unit from the lien for any subsequent assessments. However, the sale or transfer of any Unit pursuant to foreclosure of the first Mortgage shall extinguish the lien as to any installments of such assessments due prior to such sale or transfer. A Mortgagee or other purchaser of a Unit who obtains title pursuant to foreclosure of the Mortgage shall not be personally liable for assessments on such Unit due prior to such acquisition of title. Such unpaid assessments shall be deemed to be Common Expenses collectible from Owners of all Units subject to assessment under Section 8.8, including such acquirer, its successors and assigns.

8.8. Date of Commencement of Assessments. The obligation to pay assessments shall commence as to each Unit on the first day of the month following: (a) the month in which a certificate of occupancy is issued for the Unit, or (b) the month in which the Board first determines a budget and levies assessments pursuant to this Article, whichever is later, provided, however, assessments shall not commence on any Unit used for a model home during the period it is used for such purpose. The first annual General Assessment levied on each Unit, whether levied at the partial or full rate, shall be adjusted according to the number of months remaining in the fiscal year at the time assessments commence on the Unit.

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

8.10. Exempt Property. The following property shall be exempt from payment of assessments:

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

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

(c) That certain tract of land (or any portion thereof) that is currently owned by Rebecca D. Ayer for the Ayer family's personal residence and shown on the Master Plan as a 3.57 acre 'out' parcel.

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incurred by the ARC in having any application reviewed by architects, engineers or other professionals. The Board may employ architects, engineers, or other persons as it deems necessary to enable the ARC to perform its review and may include the compensation of such persons in the annual operating budget as a Common Expense.

### 9.3. Guidelines and Procedures.

(a) Design Guidelines. The Declarant may prepare initial design and development guidelines and application and review procedures (the "Design Guidelines") for the Properties. The Design Guidelines may contain general provisions applicable to all of the Properties, as well as landscape plans and other specific provisions which vary from one portion of the Properties to another depending upon the location and unique characteristics. The Design Guidelines are intended to provide guidance to Owners and Builders regarding matters of particular concern to the committees in considering applications hereunder. The Design Guidelines are not the exclusive basis for decisions of the ARC and compliance with the Design Guidelines does not guarantee approval of any application.

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

The ARC shall make the Design Guidelines available to Owners and Builders who seek to engage in development or construction within the Properties and all such Persons shall conduct their activities in accordance with such Design Guidelines.

All structures and improvements constructed upon a Unit shall be constructed in strict compliance with the Design Guidelines in effect at the time the plans for such improvements are submitted to and approved by the appropriate committee, unless the ARC has granted a variance in writing pursuant to Section 9.5. So long as the ARC has acted in good faith, its findings and conclusions with respect to appropriateness of, applicability of or compliance with the Design Guidelines and this Declaration shall be final.

(b) Procedures. Plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, color, size, materials, and location of all proposed structures and improvements shall be submitted to the ARC for review and approval (or disapproval). In addition, information concerning irrigation systems, drainage, lighting, landscaping and other features of proposed construction shall be submitted as applicable. Such plans and specifications shall be in such form and shall contain such information as may be reasonably required by the appropriate committee pursuant to the Design Guidelines, including, without being limited to:

(i) a site plan showing the location of all proposed and existing structures on the Unit, including building setbacks, open space, driveways, walkways and parking spaces, including the number thereof and all siltation and erosion control measures;

(ii) a floor plan;

(iii) exterior elevations of all proposed structures and alterations to existing structures, as such structures will appear after all back-filling and landscaping are completed;

(iv) specifications of materials, color scheme, lighting scheme and other details affecting the exterior appearance of all proposed structures and alterations to existing structures; and

(v) plans for landscaping and grading.

In reviewing each submission, the committees may consider the quality of workmanship and design, harmony of external design with existing structures, and location in relation to surrounding structures, topography, and finish grade elevation, among other things. Decisions of the ARC may be based solely on aesthetic considerations. Each Owner acknowledges that opinions on aesthetic matters are subjective and may vary as committee members change over time.

In the event that the ARC fails to approve or to disapprove in writing any application within 30 days after submission of all information and materials reasonably requested, the application shall be deemed approved. However, no approval, whether expressly granted or deemed granted pursuant to the foregoing, shall be inconsistent with the Design Guidelines unless a variance has been granted in writing by the ARC pursuant to Section 9.5.

All work shall be completed within one year of commencement or such shorter period as the ARC may specify in the notice of approval, unless completion within such time is delayed due to causes beyond the reasonable control of the Owner, as determined in the sole discretion of the ARC.

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

9.5. Minimum Dwelling Size. The Design Guidelines may establish requirements regarding the minimum square feet of heated living space to be contained in any main residential dwelling.

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

9.7. Limitation of Liability. Review and approval of any application pursuant to this Article is made on the basis of aesthetic considerations only and the ARC shall not bear any responsibility for ensuring the structural integrity or soundness of approved construction or modifications, nor for ensuring compliance with building codes and other governmental requirements. Neither the Declarant, the Association, the Board, the ARC, or any member of any of the foregoing shall be held liable for any injury, damages, or loss arising out of the manner or quality of approved construction or modifications to any Unit. In all matters, the ARC and its members shall be defended and indemnified by the Association as provided in Section 4.6.

9.8. Enforcement. Any structure, improvement or landscaping placed or made in violation of this Article shall be deemed to be nonconforming. Upon written request from the Board or the Declarant, Owners shall, at their own cost and expense, remove such structure or improvement and restore the property to substantially the same condition as existed prior to the nonconforming work. Should an Owner fail to remove and restore

as required, the Board or its designees shall have the right to enter the property, remove the violation, and restore the property to substantially the same condition as previously existed. All costs, together with the interest at the maximum rate then allowed by law, may be assessed against the benefitted Unit and collected as a Specific Assessment.

Unless otherwise specified in writing by the committee granting approval, all approvals granted hereunder shall be deemed conditioned upon completion of all elements of the approved work and all work previously approved with respect to the same Unit, unless approval to modify any application has been obtained. In the event that any Person fails to commence and diligently pursue to completion all approved work, the Association shall be authorized, after notice to the Owner of the Unit and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with By-Laws Section 3.24, to enter upon the Unit and remove or complete any incomplete work and to assess all costs incurred against the Unit and the Owner thereof as a Specific Assessment.

Any contractor, subcontractor, agent, employee, or other invitee of an Owner who fails to comply with the terms and provisions of this Article and the Design Guidelines may be excluded by the Board from the Properties, subject to the notice and hearing procedures contained in the By-Laws. In such event, neither the Association, its officers, or directors shall be held liable to any Person for exercising the rights granted by this paragraph.

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

#### **Article X** **USE RESTRICTIONS AND RULES**

10.1. Plan of Development; Applicability; Effect. Declarant has established a general plan of development for the Properties in order to enhance all Owners' quality of life and collective interests, the aesthetics and environment within the Properties, and the vitality of and sense of community within the Properties, all subject to the Board's and the Members' ability to respond to changes in circumstances, conditions, needs, and desires within the community and to regulate and control the Area of Common Responsibility. The Properties are subject to the land development, architectural, and design provisions set forth in Article IX, the other provisions of this Declaration governing individual conduct and uses of and actions upon the Properties, and the guidelines, rules and restrictions promulgated pursuant to this Declaration, all of which establish affirmative and negative covenants, easements, and restrictions on the land subject to this Declaration.

All provisions of this Declaration and any Association rules shall apply to all Owners, occupants, tenants, guests and invitees of any Unit. Any lease on any Unit shall provide that the lessee and all occupants of the leased Unit shall be bound by the terms of this Declaration, the By-Laws, and the rules of the Association. Unless and until such property is made subject to this Declaration, the provisions of this Article X shall not apply to the tract of improved land contiguous to the Property which is currently owned by Rebecca D. Ayer and contains the personal residence of the Ayer family, as more particularly described on the Master Plan as a 3.57 acre 'out' parcel.

10.2. Authority to Promulgate Use Restrictions and Rules. Initial use restrictions applicable to all of the Properties are attached as Exhibit "C" to this Declaration. Subject to the terms of this Article, such initial use restrictions may be modified in whole or in part, repealed or expanded as follows:

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(a) Subject to the Board's duty to exercise business judgment and reasonableness on behalf of the Association and its Members, the Board may adopt rules which modify, cancel, limit, create exceptions to, or expand the initial use restrictions set forth on Exhibit "C." The Board shall send notice by mail to all Owners concerning any such proposed action at least five business days prior to the Board meeting at which such action is to be considered. Members shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at a Board meeting prior to such action being taken.

Such action shall become effective unless, at a meeting of the Association, it is challenged and overturned by a vote of at least 51% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association and by the Class "B" Member, if any. The Board shall have no obligation to call a meeting of the Members to consider disapproval except upon petition of the Members as required for special meetings in the By-Laws.

(b) Alternatively, the Members, at a meeting duly called for such purpose as provided in the By-Laws, may adopt rules which modify, cancel, limit, create exceptions to, or expand the use restrictions and rules previously adopted by a vote of Members representing at least 51% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association and the approval of the Class "B" Member, if any.

(c) At least 30 days prior to the effective date of any action taken under subsections (a) or (b) of this Section, the Board shall send a copy of the rule to each Owner. The Association shall provide, without cost, a copy of the use restrictions and rules then in effect (hereafter the "Use Restrictions and Rules") to any requesting Member or Mortgagee.

(d) Nothing in this Article shall authorize the Board or the Members to modify, repeal or expand the Design Guidelines. In the event of any inconsistency between the Design Guidelines and the Use Restrictions and Rules, the Design Guidelines shall control.

10.3. Owners' Acknowledgment. All Owners and occupants of Units are given notice that use of their Units is limited by the Use Restrictions and Rules as they may be amended, expanded and otherwise modified hereunder. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed, acknowledges and agrees that the use and enjoyment and marketability of his or her Unit can be affected and that the Use Restrictions and Rules may change from time to time.

10.4. Rights of Owners. Except as may be specifically set forth in this Declaration (either initially or by amendment) or in Exhibit "C," neither the Board nor the Members may adopt any rule in violation of the following provisions:

(a) Equal Treatment. Similarly situated Owners and occupants shall be treated similarly.

(b) Speech. The freedom of speech rights of Owners and occupants shall not be abridged, except that the Association may adopt time, place, and manner restrictions (including design criteria) for the purpose of minimizing damage and disturbance to other Owners and occupants of Units.

(c) Religious and Holiday Displays. The rights of Owners to display religious and holiday signs, symbols, and decorations inside structures on their Units of the kinds normally displayed in residences located in single-family residential neighborhoods shall not be abridged, except that the Association may adopt reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions and restrictions on the extent of such displays for the purpose of minimizing damage and disturbance to other Owners and occupants.







**Article XIII**  
**DECLARANT'S RIGHTS**

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

The Declarant and Builders authorized by Declarant may maintain and carry on upon portions of the Common Area such facilities and activities as, in the sole opinion of the Declarant, may be reasonably required, convenient, or incidental to the construction or sale of Units, including, but not limited to, business offices, signs, model homes, and sales offices. The Declarant and authorized Builders shall have easements for access to and use of such facilities.

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

No Person shall record any declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions or similar instrument affecting any portion of the Properties without Declarant's review and written consent. Any attempted recordation without such consent shall result in such instrument being void and of no force and effect unless subsequently approved by written consent signed by the Declarant and recorded in the Public Records.

Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this Declaration, no amendment to or modification of any Use Restrictions and Rules or Design Guidelines made after termination of the Class "B" Control Period shall be effective without prior notice to and the written approval of Declarant so long as the Declarant owns any portion of the Properties primarily for development and sale.

The Declarant, acting in its sole and absolute discretion, retains the right, but not the obligation, as long as it owns any property described in Exhibit "A" or "B," to establish separately developed residential neighborhoods ("Neighborhoods"), recreational, nonresidential, and amenity areas, or some, all or none of these, within the Properties, to designate portions of the Common Area for the exclusive use of one or more, but less than all, Neighborhoods ("Exclusive Common Areas") and to designate groups of Owners to vote on separate slates for the election of representatives to the Board. Every Unit situated within a designated Neighborhood may be subjected to additional covenants, conditions, easements, restrictions, and additional assessments for services provided to Units within such designated Neighborhood. Neighborhood assessments to fund Association expenses for one or more, but less than all, Neighborhoods if any, shall be subject to the lien provisions for General Assessments provided in Article VIII. Every Unit situated within a designated Neighborhood may be subjected to assessments for premiums for insurance on Exclusive Common Areas. The Declarant may impose such rights and relationships pertaining to any private amenity it may add to the community as it deems proper.

This Article may not be amended without the written consent of the Declarant. The rights contained in this Article shall terminate upon the earlier of (a) 20 years from the date this Declaration is recorded, or (b) upon recording by Declarant of a written statement that all sales activity has ceased.

**Article XIV**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

14.1. Duration.

(a) Unless terminated as provided in Section 14.1(b) or unless otherwise limited by Georgia law, this Declaration shall have perpetual duration. If Georgia law hereafter limits the period during which covenants may run with the land, then, unless terminated as provided herein or, if such termination method is not consistent with Georgia law, in such other manner as required by Georgia law, this Declaration shall automatically be extended at the expiration of such period for successive periods of 20 years each. Notwithstanding the above, if any of the covenants, conditions, restrictions, or other provisions of this Declaration shall be unlawful, void, or voidable for violation of the rule against perpetuities, then such provisions shall continue only until 21 years after the death of the last survivor of the now living descendants of Elizabeth II, Queen of England.

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

14.2. Amendment.

(a) By Declarant. Until termination of the Class "B" membership, the Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration. Thereafter, the Declarant may amend this Declaration if such amendment is specifically required to enable any institutional or governmental lender, purchaser, insurer or guarantor of mortgage loans, including, for example, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to make, purchase, insure or guarantee mortgage loans on the Units. In addition, the Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration for any other purpose, provided the amendment has no material adverse effect upon any right of any Owner.

(b) By the Board. The Board shall be authorized to amend this Declaration without the consent of the Members for the purpose of submitting the Properties to the Georgia Property Owners' Association Act, O.C.G.A. §44-3-220, et seq. (1994) and conforming this Declaration to any mandatory provisions thereof. Any such amendment shall require the consent of the Declarant, so long as the Declarant has an option to subject additional property to this Declaration pursuant to Section 7.1.

(c) By Members. Except as otherwise specifically provided above and elsewhere in this Declaration, this Declaration may be amended only by the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Owners of not less than 75% of the total number of Units within the Properties and the consent of the Declarant, so long as the Declarant has an option to subject additional property to this Declaration pursuant to Section 7.1.

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

(d) Validity and Effective Date. No amendment may remove, revoke, or modify any right or privilege of the Declarant or the Class "B" Member without the written consent of the Declarant or the Class "B" Member, respectively (or the assignee of such right or privilege).

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

Any amendment shall become effective upon recording in the Public Records, unless a later effective date is specified in the amendment. Any procedural challenge to an amendment must be made within six months of its recordation or such amendment shall be presumed to have been validly adopted. In no event shall a change of conditions or circumstances operate to amend any provisions of this Declaration.

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

14.4. Litigation. Except as provided below, no judicial or administrative proceeding shall be commenced or prosecuted by the Association unless approved by a vote of Members holding 75% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association. This Section shall not apply, however, to (a) actions brought by the Association to enforce the provisions of this Declaration (including, without limitation, the foreclosure of liens); (b) the imposition and collection of assessments as provided in Article VIII; (c) proceedings involving challenges to ad valorem taxation; (d) counterclaims brought by the Association in proceedings instituted against it; or (e) actions brought by the Association against any contractor, vendor, or supplier of goods or services arising out of a contract for services or supplies. This Section shall not be amended unless such amendment is approved by the percentage of votes, and pursuant to the same procedures, necessary to institute proceedings as provided above.

14.5. Cumulative Effect; Conflict. The provisions of this Declaration shall be cumulative with the provisions of any applicable Supplemental Declaration. Nothing in this Section shall preclude any Supplemental Declaration or other recorded declaration, covenants and restrictions applicable to any portion of the Properties from containing additional restrictions or provisions which are more restrictive than the provisions of this Declaration, and the Association shall have the standing and authority to enforce the same.

14.6. Use of the Words "Sweet Pine Creek." No Person shall use the words "Sweet Pine Creek" or any derivative in any printed or promotional material without the Declarant's prior written consent. However, Owners may use the words "Sweet Pine Creek" in printed or promotional matter where such terms are used solely to specify that particular property is located within the Sweet Pine Creek development and the Association shall be entitled to use the words "Sweet Pine Creek" in its name.

14.7. Compliance. Every Owner and occupant of any Unit shall comply with this Declaration, any applicable Supplemental Declaration, the By-Laws, and the Use Restrictions and Rules promulgated pursuant to Article X. Failure to comply shall be grounds for an action by the Association or, in a proper case, by any aggrieved Unit Owner(s) to recover sums due, for damages or injunctive relief, or for any other remedy available at law or in equity, in addition to those enforcement powers granted to the Association in Section 4.3.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Declarant has executed this Declaration this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1995.

DECLARANT: JHA ENTERPRISES, INC., a Georgia corporation

By: [Signature] [SEAL]  
Its: President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ [SEAL]

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed, sealed, and delivered this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1995,  
in the presence of:

[Signature]  
WITNESS

[Signature]  
NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Public, Cobb County, Georgia  
My Commission Expires Jan. 12, 1999

