

**BY-LAWS**  
**OF**  
**STEPHENS GROVE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

**ARTICLE I**  
**Name, Principal Office, and Definitions**

1.1 **Name.** The name of the corporation is Stephens Grove Homeowners Association Inc. (the "Association").

1.2 **Principal Office.** The principal office of the Association shall be located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The Association may have such other offices, either within or outside the State of North Carolina, as the Board of Directors may determine or as the officers of the Association may require.

1.3 **Definitions.** The words used in these By-Laws shall be given their normal, commonly understood definitions. Capitalized terms shall have the same meaning as set forth in that Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for Stephens Grove filed in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, as it may be amended (the "Declaration"), unless the context indicates otherwise.

**ARTICLE II**  
**Membership: Meetings, Quorum, Voting, Proxies**

2.1 **Membership.** The Association shall have two classes of membership, Class "A" and Class "B", as more fully set forth in the Declaration, the terms of which pertaining to membership are incorporated by this reference.

2.2 **Place of Meetings.** Meetings of the Association shall be held at the principal office of the Association or at such other suitable place convenient to the Members as may be designated by the Board, either within the Properties or as convenient as is possible and practical.

2.3 **Annual Meetings.** The first meeting of the Association, whether a regular or special meeting, shall be held within one year from the date of incorporation of the Association. Subsequent regular annual meetings shall be set by the Board so as to occur during the third quarter of the Association's fiscal year on a date and at a time set by the Board.

2.4 **Special Meetings.** The President may call special meetings. In addition, it shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting if so directed by resolution of the Board or upon a petition signed by Members representing at least 10% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association.

2.5 Notice of Meetings. Written or printed notice stating the place, day, and hour of any meeting of the Members shall be delivered, either personally or by mail, to each Member entitled to vote at such meeting at the mailing address of each Unit or to any other mailing address designated in writing by a Member, not less than 10 nor more than 60 calendar days before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the President or the Secretary or the officers or Persons calling the meeting. The notice shall also state the items on the meeting agenda, including the general nature of any proposed amendment to the Declaration or Bylaws, any budget changes, and any proposal to remove a director or officer.

In the case of a special meeting or when otherwise required by statute or these By-Laws, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except as stated in the notice.

If mailed, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the Member as set forth above, with postage prepaid.

2.6 Waiver of Notice. 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 or the Member's proxy shall be deemed waiver by such Member of notice of the time, date, and place thereof, unless such Member or proxy specifically objects to lack of proper notice at the time the meeting is called to order. Attendance at a special meeting also shall be deemed waiver of notice of all business transacted at such meeting unless an objection on the basis of lack of proper notice is raised before the business is put to a vote.

2.7 Adjournment of Meetings. If any meeting of the Association cannot be held because a quorum is not present, Members or their proxies holding a majority of the votes represented at such meeting may adjourn the meeting to a time not less than 5 nor more than 30 calendar days from the time the original meeting was called. At the reconvened meeting, if a quorum is present, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting originally called. If a time and place for reconvening the meeting is not fixed by those in attendance at the original meeting or if for any reason a new date is fixed for reconvening the meeting after adjournment, notice of the time and place for reconvening the meeting shall be given to Members in the manner prescribed for regular meetings.

The Members represented 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, provided that any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the votes required to constitute a quorum.

2.8 Voting. The voting rights of the Members shall be as set forth in the Declaration and in these By-Laws, and such voting rights provisions are specifically incorporated by this reference.

2.9 Proxies. At all meetings of Members, each Member may vote in person (if a corporation, partnership or trust, through any officer, director, partner or trustee duly authorized to act

on behalf of the Member) or by proxy, subject to the limitations of North Carolina law. All proxies shall be in writing specifying the Unit(s) for which it is given, signed by the Member or its duly authorized attorney-in-fact, dated and filed with the Secretary of the Association prior to any meeting for which it is to be effective. A proxy that is not dated shall be void. Unless otherwise specifically provided in the proxy, a proxy shall be presumed to cover all votes which the Member giving such proxy is entitled to cast, and in the event of any conflict between two or more proxies purporting to cover the same voting rights, the later dated proxy shall prevail, or if dated as of the same date, both shall be deemed invalid. Every proxy shall be revocable and shall automatically cease upon conveyance of any Unit for which it was given, or upon receipt of notice by the Secretary of the death or judicially declared incompetence of a Member who is a natural person, or of written revocation, or 11 months from the date of the proxy, unless a shorter period is specified in the proxy.

2.10 Majority. As used in these By-Laws, the term “majority” shall mean those votes, Owners, Members, or other group, as the context may indicate, totaling more than 50% of the total eligible number.

2.11 Quorum. Except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws or in the Declaration, the presence, in person or by proxy, of Members representing 20% of the total Class “A” votes in the Association shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Association. If a quorum is not present at a meeting, the meeting may be adjourned to a later date by the affirmative vote of those present in person or by proxy. The quorum requirement at the next meeting shall be one-half of the quorum requirement applicable to the meeting adjourned for lack of a quorum. This provision shall continue to reduce the quorum by fifty percent (50%) from that required at the previous meeting, as previously reduced, until such time as a quorum is present and business can be conducted. The rescheduled meeting (with the lower quorum requirement) shall be held no more than sixty (60) days following the preceding meeting.

2.12 Conduct of Meetings. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Association, and the Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and record in a minute book all resolutions adopted and all other transactions occurring at such meetings.

2.13 Action Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted by law to be taken at a meeting of the Members may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice and without a vote, if written consent specifically authorizing the proposed action is signed by all Members entitled to vote thereon. Such consent shall be filed with the minutes of the Association, and shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Members at a meeting. Within 10 business days after receiving authorization for any action by written consent, the Secretary shall give written notice to all Members entitled to vote who did not give their written consent, fairly summarizing the material features of the authorized action.

ARTICLE III  
Board of Directors: Selection, Meetings, Powers

A. Composition and Selection.

3.1 Governing Body; Composition. The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors, each of whom shall have one equal vote. Except with respect to directors appointed by the Class "B" Member, the directors shall be Members or Residents; provided, no Owner and Resident representing the same Unit may serve on the Board at the same time. A "Resident" shall be any natural person 18 years of age or older whose principal place of residence is a Unit within the Properties. In the case of a Member which is not a natural person, any officer, director, partner, employee or trust office of such Member shall be eligible to serve as a director unless otherwise specified by written notice to the Association signed by such Member; provided, no Member may have more than one such representative on the Board at a time, except in the case of directors appointed by the Class "B" Member.

3.2 Number of Directors. The Board shall consist of three to five directors, as provided in Sections 3.3 and 3.5 below. The initial Board shall consist of three directors.

3.3 Directors During Class "B" Control Period. Subject to the provisions of Section 3.5 below, the directors shall be selected by the Class "B" Member acting in its sole discretion and shall serve at the pleasure of the Class "B" Member until the first to occur of the following, which occurrence shall signify the end of the Class "B" Control Period.:

(a) when 98% of the total number of Units proposed by the site plan for the property described on Exhibits "A" and "B" of the Declaration have certificates of occupancy issued thereon and have been conveyed to Persons other than Builders; or

(b) when, in its discretion, the Class "B" Member so determines.

3.4 Nomination and Election Procedures.

(a) Nominations and Declarations of Candidacy. Prior to each election of directors by the Class "A" Members, the Board shall prescribe the opening date and the closing date of a reasonable filing period in which each and every eligible person who has a bona-fide interest in serving as a director may file as a candidate for any position to be filled by votes of Class "A" Members. The Board shall also establish such other rules and regulations as it deems appropriate to conduct the nomination of directors in a fair, efficient and cost-effective manner.

Except with respect to directors selected by the Class "B" Member, nominations for election to the Board may also be made by a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee, if any, shall consist of a Chairman, who shall be a member of the Board, and three or more Members or representatives of Members. The Board shall appoint the members of the Nominating Committee, if one is to be appointed, not less than 30 calendar days prior to each annual meeting to serve a term of

one year and until their successors are appointed, and such appointment shall be announced at each annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee may make as many nominations for election to the Board as it shall in its discretion determine. In making its nominations, the Nominating Committee shall use reasonable efforts to nominate candidates representing the diversity which exists within the pool of potential candidates.

Each candidate shall be given a reasonable, uniform opportunity to communicate his or her qualifications to the Members and to solicit votes.

(b) Election Procedures. Each Owner may cast the entire vote assigned to his Unit for each position to be filled. There shall be no cumulative voting. That number of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. Directors may be elected to serve any number of consecutive terms.

3.5 Election and Term of Office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these By-Laws:

(a) Within 30 calendar days after the time that Class "A" Members other than Builder own 50% of the Units proposed by the site plan for the property described in Exhibits "A" and "B" of the Declaration, or whenever the Class "B" Member earlier determines, the Board shall be increased to five directors. The President shall call for an election by which the Class "A" Members shall be entitled to elect two of the five directors. The remaining three directors shall be appointees of the Class "B" Member. The directors elected by the Class "A" Members shall not be subject to removal by the Class "B" Members and shall be elected for a term of two years or until the happening of the event described in subsection (b), whichever is shorter. If such directors' terms expire prior to the happening of the event described in subsection (b), successors shall be elected for a like term.

(b) Within 90 calendar days after termination of the Class "B" Control Period, the President shall call for an election by which the Class "A" Members shall be entitled to elect three of the five directors. The remaining two directors shall be appointees of the Class "B" Member. The directors elected by the Class "A" Members shall not be subject to removal by the Class "B" Member and shall serve until the first annual meeting following the termination of the Class "B" Control Period. If such annual meeting is scheduled to occur within 90 calendar days after termination of the Class "B" Control Period, this subsection shall not apply and directors shall be elected in accordance with subsection (c) below.

(c) Not later than the first annual meeting after the termination of the Class "B" Control Period, an election shall be held at which four directors shall be elected by the Class "A" Members, with the two directors receiving the largest number of votes being elected for a term of two years and the remaining two directors being elected for a term of one year.

Until termination of the Class "B" membership, the Class "B" Member shall be entitled to appoint one director. Upon termination of the Class "B" membership, the director elected by the Class

"B" Member shall resign and the remaining directors shall be entitled to appoint a director to serve until the next annual meeting, at which the Class "A" Members shall be entitled to elect a director to fill such position. Such director shall be elected for a term of two years.

Upon the expiration of the term of office of each director elected by the Class "A" Members, a successor shall be elected to serve a term of two years. The directors elected by the Class "A" Members shall hold office until their respective successors have been elected.

3.6 Removal of Directors and Vacancies. Any director elected by the Class "A" Members may be removed, with or without cause, by Members holding a majority of the votes entitled to be cast for his or her election. Any director whose removal is sought shall be given notice prior to any meeting called for that purpose. Upon removal of a director, a successor shall be elected by the Class "A" Members to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of such director.

Any director elected by the Class "A" Members who has three or more consecutive unexcused absences from Board meetings, or who is more than 30 calendar days delinquent (or is the representative of a Member who is so delinquent) in the payment of any assessment or other charge due the Association, may be removed by a majority of the directors present at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, and the Board may appoint a successor to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

In the event of the death, disability, or resignation of a director elected by the Class "A" Members, the Board may declare a vacancy and appoint a successor to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting, at which time the Class "A" Members shall elect a successor for the remainder of the term.

This Section shall not apply to directors appointed by the Class "B" Member nor to any director serving as a representative of the Declarant. The Class "B" Member shall be entitled to appoint a successor to fill any vacancy on the Board resulting from the death, disability or resignation of a director appointed by or elected as a representative of the Class "B" Member.

B. Meetings.

3.7 Organizational Meetings. The first meeting of the Board following each annual meeting of the membership shall be held immediately following the annual meeting or at such other time and place within 10 business days thereafter as a majority of the directors shall agree upon.

3.8 Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board may be held at such time and place as a majority of the directors shall determine, but at least four such meetings shall be held during each fiscal year with at least one per quarter.

3.9 Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held when called by written notice signed by the President or Vice President or by any two directors. The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the nature of any special business to be considered.

Association at a regular or special meeting of the Association. Any director may be reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the Association upon approval of a majority of the other directors. Nothing herein shall prohibit the Association from compensating a director, or any entity with which a director is affiliated, for services or supplies furnished to the Association in a capacity other than as a director pursuant to a contract or agreement with the Association, provided that such director's interest was made known to the Board prior to entering into such contract and such contract was approved by a majority of the Board of Directors, excluding the interested director.

3.14 Conduct of Meetings. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board, and the Secretary shall keep a minute book of Board meetings recording all Board resolutions and all transactions and proceedings occurring at such meetings.

3.15 Notice to Owners; Open Meetings. Except in an emergency, notice of Board meetings shall be posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at a conspicuous place within the Properties which the Board establishes for the posting of notices relating to the Association. Notice of any meeting at which assessments are to be established shall state that fact and the nature of the assessment. Subject to the provisions of Section 3.16, 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 permission to speak is requested on his or her behalf by a director. In such case, the President may limit the time any Member may speak. Notwithstanding the above, the president may adjourn any meeting of the Board and reconvene in executive session, and may exclude Members, to discuss matters of a sensitive nature, such as pending or threatened litigation, personnel matters, etc.

3.16 Action Without a Formal Meeting. 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, and such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote.

C. Powers and Duties.

3.17 Powers. The Board of Directors shall have all of the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the Association's affairs and for performing all responsibilities and exercising all rights of the Association as set forth in the Declaration, these By-Laws, the Articles, and as provided by law until the Board of Directors shall act in accordance with the standards for directors of non-profit corporations as set forth in N.C.G.S. §55A-8-30. The Board may do or cause to be done all acts and things except those, if any, which the Declaration, Articles, these By-Laws, or North Carolina law direct to be done and exercised exclusively by the membership generally.

3.18 Duties. The duties of the Board shall include, without limitation:

- (a) preparing and adopting, in accordance with the Declaration, an annual budget establishing each Owner's share of the Common Expenses;
- (b) levying and collecting such assessments from the Owners;

(c) providing for the operation, care, upkeep, and maintenance of the Area of Common Responsibility;

(d) designating, hiring, and dismissing the personnel necessary to carry out the rights and responsibilities of the Association and where appropriate, providing for the compensation of such personnel and for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and materials to be used by such personnel in the performance of their duties;

(e) depositing all funds received on behalf of the Association in a bank depository which it shall approve, and using such funds to operate the Association; provided, any reserve fund may be deposited, in the directors' best business judgment, in depositories other than banks;

(f) making and amending use restrictions and rules in accordance with the Declaration;

(g) opening of bank accounts on behalf of the Association and designating the signatories required;

(h) making or contracting for the making of repairs, additions, and improvements to or alterations of the Common Area in accordance with the Declaration and these By-Laws;

(i) enforcing by legal means the provisions of the Declaration, these By-Laws, and the rules of the Association and bringing any proceedings which may be instituted on behalf of or against the Owners concerning the Association; provided, 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;

(j) obtaining and carrying property and liability insurance and fidelity bonds, as provided in the Declaration, paying the cost thereof, and filing and adjusting claims, as appropriate;

(k) paying the cost of all services rendered to the Association;

(l) keeping books with detailed accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the Association;

(m) making available to any prospective purchaser of a Unit, any Owner, and the holders, insurers, and guarantors of any Mortgage on any Unit, current copies of the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, the By-Laws, rules and all other books, records, and financial statements of the Association, as provided in Section 6.4;

(n) permitting utility suppliers to use portions of the Common Area reasonably necessary to the ongoing development or operation of the Properties;

(o) indemnifying a director, officer or committee member, or former director, officer or committee member of the Association to the extent such indemnity is required under North Carolina law, the Articles of Incorporation or the Declaration;

(p) impose reasonable charges for late payment of assessments and, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, suspend privileges or services provided by the association (except rights of access to Units) during any period that assessments or other amounts due and owing to the Association remain unpaid for a period of 30 days or longer; and

(q) after notice and an opportunity to be heard, impose reasonable fines or suspend privileges or services provided by the Association (except rights of access to Units) for reasonable periods for violations of the Declaration, Bylaws and rules and regulations of the Association.

3.19 Right of Class "B" Member to Disapprove Actions. So long as the Class "B" membership exists, the Class "B" Member shall have a right to disapprove any action, policy or program of the Association, the Board and any committee which, in the sole judgment of the Class "B" Member, would tend to impair rights of the Declarant or Builders under the Declaration or these By-Laws, or interfere with development of or construction on any portion of the Properties, or diminish the level of services being provided by the Association.

(a) The Class "B" Member shall be given written notice of all meetings and proposed actions approved at meetings (or by written consent in lieu of a meeting) of the Association, the Board or any committee. Such notice shall be given by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal delivery at the address it has registered with the Secretary of the Association, which notice complies as to the Board meetings with Sections 3.8, 3.9 and 3.10 and which notice shall, except in the case of the regular meetings held pursuant to the By-Laws, set forth in reasonable particularity the agenda to be followed at said meeting; and

(b) The Class "B" Member shall be given the opportunity at any such meeting to join in or to have its representatives or agents join in discussion from the floor of any prospective action, policy, or program which would be subject to the right of disapproval set forth herein.

No action, policy or program subject to the right of disapproval set forth herein shall be come effective or be implemented until and unless the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) above have been met.

The Class "B" Member, its representatives or agents shall make its concerns, thoughts, and suggestions known to the Board and/or the members of the subject committee. The Class "B" Member, acting through any officer or director, agent or authorized representative, may exercise its right to disapprove at any time within 10 business days following the meeting at which such action was proposed or, in the case of any action taken by written consent in lieu of a meeting, at any time within 10 business days following receipt of written notice of the proposed action. This right to disapprove may be used to block proposed actions but shall not include a right to require any action or counteraction on behalf of any committee, or the Board or the Association. The Class "B" Member

shall not use its right to disapprove to reduce the level of services which the Association is obligated to provide or to prevent capital repairs or any expenditure required to comply with applicable laws and regulations.

3.20 Management. The Board of Directors may employ for the Association, a professional management agent or agents at such compensation as the Board may establish, to perform such duties and services as the Board shall authorize. The Board of Directors may delegate such powers as are necessary to perform the manager's assigned duties, but shall not delegate policy making authority or those duties set forth in Sections 3.18(a), 3.18(b), 3.18(f), 3.18(g) and 3.18(i). The Declarant, or an affiliate of the Declarant, may be employed as managing agent or manager.

The Board of Directors may delegate to one of its members the authority to act on behalf of the Board on all matters relating to the duties of the managing agent or manager, if any, which might arise between meetings of the Board.

3.21 Accounts and Reports. The following management standards of performance shall be followed unless the Board by resolution specifically determines otherwise:

- (a) accounting and controls should conform to generally accepted accounting principles;
- (b) cash accounts of the Association shall not be commingled with any other accounts;
- (c) no remuneration shall be accepted by the managing agent from vendors, independent contractors, or others providing goods or services to the Association, whether in the form of commissions, finder's fees, service fees, prizes, gifts, or otherwise; any thing of value received shall benefit the Association;
- (d) any financial or other interest which the managing agent may have in any firm providing goods or services to the Association shall be disclosed promptly to the Board;
- (e) commencing at the end of the quarter in which the first Unit is sold and closed, financial reports shall be prepared for the Association at least quarterly containing:
  - (i) an income statement reflecting all income and expense activity for the preceding period on an accrual basis;
  - (ii) a statement reflecting all cash receipts and disbursements for the preceding period;
  - (iii) a variance report reflecting the status of all accounts in an "actual" versus "approved" budget format;
  - (iv) a balance sheet as of the last day of the preceding period; and

### 3.10 Notice; Waiver of Notice.

(a) Notice of the time and place of a regular meeting shall be communicated to directors not less than four calendar days prior to the meeting. Notice of the time and place of a special meeting shall be communicated to directors not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting. No notice need be given to any director who has signed a waiver of notice or a written consent to holding of the meeting. The notice shall be given to each director by: (i) personal delivery; (ii) first class mail, postage prepaid; (iii) telephone communication, either directly to the director or to a person at the director's office or home who would reasonably be expected to communicate such notice promptly to the director; or (iv) telecopier transmission to the director's home or office, with confirmation of receipt by the receiving telecopier. All such notices shall be given at the director's telephone or telecopier number or sent to the director's address as shown on the records of the Association. Notices sent by first class mail shall be deemed communicated when deposited into a United States mailbox. Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, or telecopier shall be deemed communicated when delivered or telephoned, or upon receipt of confirmation of transmission via telecopier.

(b) The transactions of any meeting of the Board, however called and noticed or whenever held, shall be as valid as though taken at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice if (i) a quorum is present, and (ii) 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 also shall be deemed given to any director who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice.

3.11 Telephonic Participation in Meetings. Members of the Board or any committee designated by the Board may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, by means of which all Persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this subsection shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

3.12 Quorum of Board of Directors. At all meetings of the Board, 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, unless otherwise specifically provided in these By-Laws or the Declaration. 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 of the Board cannot be held because a quorum is not present, a majority of the directors present at such meeting may adjourn the meeting to a time not less than 5 nor more than 30 calendar days from the date of the original meeting. At the reconvened meeting, if a quorum is present, any business which might have been transacted at the meeting originally called may be transacted without further notice.

3.13 Compensation. Directors shall not receive any compensation from the Association for acting as such unless approved by members representing a majority of the total Class "A" votes in the

proposed sanction shall be imposed as contained in the notice unless a challenge is begun within 10 calendar days of the notice. If a timely challenge is not made, the sanction stated in the notice shall be imposed; provided, the Board or Covenants Committee may, but shall not be obligated to, suspend any proposed sanction if the violation is cured within the 10-day period. Such suspension shall not constitute a waiver of the right to sanction future violations of the same or other provisions and rules by any Person.

(b) Hearing. If a hearing is requested within the allotted 10-day period, the hearing shall be held before the Covenants Committee, if one, or if none, then before the Board in executive session. The alleged violator shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard. Prior to the effectiveness of any sanction hereunder, proof of proper notice shall be placed in the minutes of the meeting. Such proof shall be deemed adequate if a copy of the notice, together with a statement of the date and manner of delivery, is entered by the officer, director, or agent who delivered such notice. The notice requirement shall be deemed satisfied if the alleged violator or its representative appears at the meeting. The minutes of the meeting shall contain a written statement of the results of the hearing and the sanction, if any, imposed.

(c) Appeal. Following a hearing before the Covenants Committee, the violator shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Board of Directors. To exercise this right, a written notice of appeal must be received by the manager, President, or Secretary of the Association within 10 calendar days after the hearing date.

(d) Additional Enforcement Rights. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article, the Board may elect to enforce any provision of the Declaration, these By-Laws, or the rules of the Association by self-help (specifically including, but not limited to, the towing of vehicles that are in violation of parking rules) or, following compliance with the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Article XVI of the Declaration, if applicable, by suit at law or in equity to enjoin any violation or to recover monetary damages or both, without the necessity of compliance with the procedure set forth above. In any such action, to the maximum extent permissible, the Owner or occupant responsible for the violation of which abatement is sought shall pay all costs, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred. Any entry onto a Unit for purposes of exercising this power of self-help shall not be deemed as trespass.

## ARTICLE IV

### Officers

4.1 Officers. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President, Vice President and Secretary shall be elected from among the members of the Board; other officers may, but need not be members of the Board. The Board may appoint such other officers, including one or more Assistant Secretaries and one or more Assistant Treasurers, as it shall deem desirable, such officers to have such authority and perform such duties as the Board prescribes. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of President and Secretary shall not be held by the same person.

4.2 Election and Term of Office. The Board shall elect the officers of the Association at the first meeting of the Board following each annual meeting of the Members, to serve until their successors are elected.

4.3 Removal and Vacancies. The Board may remove any officer whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Association will be served, and may fill any vacancy in any office arising because of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, for the unexpired portion of the term.

4.4 Powers and Duties. The officers of the Association shall each have such powers and duties as generally pertain to their respective offices, as well as such powers and duties as may specifically be conferred or imposed by the Board of Directors and the officers shall act in accordance with the standards for officers of a non-profit corporation set forth in N.C.G.S. §55A-8-42. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association. The Treasurer shall have primary responsibility for the preparation of the budget as provided for in the Declaration and may delegate all or part of the preparation and notification duties to a finance committee, management agent, or both.

4.5 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.

4.6 Agreements, Contracts, Deeds, Leases, Checks, Etc. All agreements, contracts, deeds, leases, checks, and other instruments of the Association shall be executed by at least two officers or by such other person or Persons as may be designated by Board resolution.

4.7 Compensation. Compensation of officers shall be subject to the same limitations as compensation of directors under Section 3.13.

## ARTICLE V Committees

5.1 General. The Board may appoint such committees as it deems appropriate to perform such tasks and to serve for such periods as the Board may designate by resolution. Each committee shall operate in accordance with the terms of such resolution.

5.2 Covenants Committee. In addition to any other committees which the Board may establish pursuant to the Declaration, these By-Laws and, specifically, Section 5.1, the Board may appoint a Covenants Committee consisting of at least three and no more than seven Members. Acting in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration, these By-Laws, and resolutions the Board may adopt, the Covenants Committee, if established, shall be the hearing tribunal of the Association and shall conduct all hearings held pursuant to Section 3.24 of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI  
Miscellaneous

6.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year unless the Board establishes a different fiscal year by resolution.

6.2 Parliamentary Rules. Except as may be modified by Board resolution, Robert's Rules of Order (current edition) shall govern the conduct of Association proceedings when not in conflict with North Carolina law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Declaration, or these By-Laws.

6.3 Conflicts. If there are conflicts between the provisions of North Carolina law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Declaration, and these By-Laws (in that order) shall prevail.

6.4 Books and Records.

(a) Inspection by Members and Mortgagees. The Board shall make available for inspection and copying by any holder, insurer or guarantor of a first Mortgage on a Unit, any Member, or the duly appointed representative of any of the foregoing at any reasonable time and for a purpose reasonably related to his or her interest in a Unit: the Declaration, By-Laws, and Articles of Incorporation, any amendments to the foregoing, the rules of the Association, the membership register, books of account, and the minutes of meetings of the Members, the Board, and committees. The Board shall provide for such inspection to take place at the office of the Association or at such other place within the Properties as the Board shall designate.

(b) Rules for Inspection. The Board shall establish reasonable rules with respect to:

- (i) notice to be given to the custodian of the records;
- (ii) hours and days of the week when such an inspection may be made; and
- (iii) payment of the cost or reproducing copies of documents requested.

(c) Inspection by Directors. Every director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, and documents of the Association and the physical properties owned or controlled by the Association. The right of inspection by a director includes the right to make a copy of relevant documents at the expense of the Association.

6.5 Notices. Except as otherwise provided in the Declaration or these By-Laws, all notices, demands, bills, statements, and other communications under the Declaration or 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, at the address which the Member has designated in writing and filed with the Secretary or, if no such address has been designate, at the address of the Unit 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, or at such other address as shall be designated by notice in writing to the Members pursuant to this Section.

#### 6.6 Amendment.

(a) By Class "B" Member. Until conveyance of the first Unit to a Person other than a Builder, the Class "B" Member may amend these By-Laws, subject to the approval requirements set forth in Article XVII of the Declaration, if applicable. Thereafter, the Class "B" Member may amend these By-Laws if such amendment is specifically required to enable 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; provided, however, any such amendment shall not adversely affect the title to any Unit unless the Owner shall consent thereto in writing.

(b) By Members Generally. Except as provided above, these By-Laws may be amended only by the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Members representing a majority of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, and the consent of the Class "B" Member, if such exists. In addition, the approval requirements set forth in Article XVII of the Declaration shall be met, if applicable. 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 than clause.

(c) Validity and Effective Date of Amendments. Amendments to these By-Laws shall become effective upon recordation in the Public Records, unless a later effective date is specified therein. 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 these By-Laws.

No amendment may remove, revoke, or modify any right or privilege of Declarant or the Class "B" Member without the written consent of Declarant, the Class "B" Member, or the assignee of such right or privilege.

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