# DECLARATION OF COVENANTS CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTONS

FOR

THE FALLS AT MEEHAN

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE 1	: DEFINITIONS	
1.1	"Additional Property"	.2
1.2	"ARB"	
1.3	"Area of Common Responsibility"	
1.4	"Articles of Incorporation" or "Articles"	3
1.5	"Association"	.3
1.6	"Board of Directors" or "Board"	.3
1.7	"Builder",	.3
1.8	"By-Laws"	.3
1.9	"Class "B" Control Period"	.3
1.10	"Club"	.3
1.11	"Club Facilities"	3
1.12	"Common Area"	.3
1.13	"Common Expenses"	.3
1.14	"Community-Wide Standard"	
1.15	"Cost Sharing Agreement"	
1.16	"Days"	
1.17	"Declarant"	
1.18	"Development Period"	.4
1.19	"Exclusive Common Area"	
1.20	"General Assessment"	4
1.21	"Governing Documents"	.4
1.22	"Majority"	
1.23	"Master Plan"	
1.24	"Member"	5
1.25	"Mortgage"	
1.26	"Mortgagee"	
1.27	"Neighborhood"	
1.28	"Neighborhood Assessments"	
1.29	"Neighborhood Association"	
1.30	"Neighborhood Expenses"	
1.31	"Owner"	
1.32	"Person"	5
1.33	"Properties"	.6
1.34	"Public Records"	.6
1.35	"Residential Unit"	б
1.36	"Special Assessment"	6
1.37	"Specific Assessment"	6
1.38	"Supplemental Declaration"	
1.39	"The Falls at Meehan"	
1.40	"Unit"	6
1.41	"Voting Delegate"	7
1.42	"Zoning Ordinance"	

ARTICLE	2: PROPERTY RIGHTS7
2.1	Common Area7
2.2	Exclusive Common Area8
2.3	No Partition9
2.4	Condemnation9
	3: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS9
3.1	Membership9
3.2	Voting10
3.3	Neighborhoods11
3.4	Voting Delegates12
ADTICLE	4. DICHTS AND ODLICATIONS OF THE ACCOUNTS OF
4.1	4: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION
4.2	Function of Association
4.2	Personal Property and Real Property for Common Use
4.3	Enforcement
	Implied Rights; Board Authority
4.5	Governmental Interests
4.6	Indemnification15
4.7	Dedication of or Grant of Easements on Common Area
4.8	Security16
4.9	Relationship With Tax-Exempt Organizations16
4.10	Powers of the Association Relating to Neighborhood Associations16
4.11	Provisions of Services
4.12	Rezoning17
4.13	Use of the Bodies of Water
4.14	Presence and Management of Wildlife17
ARTICLES	5: MAINTENANCE18
5.1	Accaciation's Daspansibility
5.2	Association's Responsibility
5.3	Owner's Responsibility
5.4	Neighborhood's Responsibility
5.5	Standard of Performance
3.3	Cost Sharing Agreements21
ARTICLE 6	: INSURANCE AND CASUALTY LOSSES22
6.1	Association Insurance
6.2	Owner's Insurance24
	: ANNEXATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF PROPERTY25
7.1	Annexation by Declarant25
7.2	Annexation by Membership25
7.3	Withdrawal of Property25
7.4	Additional Covenants and Easements25
7.5	Amendment

ARTICL	E 8: ASSESSMENTS
8.1	Cleation of Assessments
8.2	- Computation of General Assessments
8.3	Computation of Neighborhood Assessments
8.4	Reserve budget
8.5	opecial Assessments
8.6	Specific Assessments
8.7	Lien for Assessments
8.8	Date of Commencement of Assessments
8.9	ranue to Assess
8.1	o Exemplification in the second secon
8.1	1 Transfer Fee
ARTICLE	9: ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS32
7.1	Ucheral
9.2	Architectural Review
9.3	r roccuires
9.4	Architect and General Contractor Approval
9.5	Specific duidelines and Restrictions
9.6	Construction Period
9.7	No waiver of ruttire Approvals
9.8	variance
9.9	Limitation of Liability
9.10	Enforcement
ADTICLE	
ARTICLE	10: USE RESTRICTIONS38
10.1	General
10.2	Rules and Regulations
10.3	Occupants Bound
10.4	Deading
10.5	Residential Use
10.6	Occupancy of Unfinished Units
10.7	venicles
10.8 10.9	Osc of Common Area
10.9	An annual distriction of the second s
10.10	TVUISAIICE
10.11	Storage of Materials, Garbage, Dumping, Ftc.
10.12	Compastible Liquid
10.13	Ouis
	Subdivision of Unit
10.15	one rian Approval
10.16	Signt Distance at intersections
10.17	Drainage and Grading
10.18	11 I gation
10.19	oreams
10.20	Ponds and Other Water Bodies42

1(	0.21 Wetlands	a n
10	0.22 Club Facilities	ز4
10	0.23 Timesharing	43
ARTICL	E 11: EASEMENTS	4.00
Throad Amend	.1 Easements of Encroachment.	43
Queenly Queenly	.2 Easements for Utilities, Etc.	43
11	.3 Easement for Slope Control, Drainage and Waterway Maintenance	44
11.	4 Easements to Serve Additional Property	.44
terms.	.4 Easements to Serve Additional Property	.45
to and	<ul> <li>Easements for Entry.</li> <li>Easements for Maintenance and Enforcement.</li> </ul>	45
11.	7 Easements for Lake and Dond Maintenance LD	45
11.	Fasements for Lake and Pond Maintenance and Flood Water	.46
11.	8 Lateral Support.	.46
11.	The state of the s	.47
11.	Division of the state of the st	.47
	11 Liability for Use of Easements	47
ARTICLE	12. MODTC & CEE PROJUCIONO	
12.1	12: MORTGAGEE PROVISIONS.	47
12.1	- CHOO OF FOROITY, THE STATE OF	47
12.3	and Homey	40
12.3	Notice to Association	
12.4	railule of Mongagee to Respond	
14.0	Construction of Article 12	18
ARTICLE	13: DECLARANT'S RIGHTS	
13.1	Transfer of Assignment	8
13.2	A TABLET OF TABLETHICH	8
13.3	- True principal and Dales	8
13.4	The state of Common Michael	9
13.5		9
13.6	Additional Covenants	9
13.7	Right of Class "B" Member to Disapprove Actions	0
* 20.1	Amendments	)
ARTICLE	14: CUIR MEMBEDOUR	
14 1	14: CLUB MEMBERSHIP	- Separate S
4 1 . 2	Club membership and Other Club Matters	1
ARTICLE	5: CENERAL PROVICIONO	
15.1	5: GENERAL PROVISIONS	2
15.2	Duration	2
15.3	Amendment	3
15.4	Severability	-weeding
15.5	Dispute Resolution	4
15.6	Liugaioi	•
15.7	Noil-Meiger	4
15.8	Oranis	
12.0	Cumulative Effect; Conflict	

# 070003549 2/02/2007 Bk: 07834 Ps: 00222

15.9	Use of the "The Falls at Meehan" Name and Logo	55
15.10	Compliance	55
13.11	Notice of Sale or Transfer of Title.	5.5
13.12	EXPLOIDS	55
15.13	View Impairment	55

# DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

#### FOR

#### THE FALLS AT MEEHAN

THIS DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS for The Falls at Meehan ("Declaration") is made as of the date set forth on the signature page hereof by RNN Properties, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company (the "Declarant").

Declarant is the owner of the real property described on Exhibit "A," which is attached and incorporated by reference. This Declaration imposes upon the Properties mutually beneficial restrictions under a general plan of improvement for the benefit of the owners of each portion of the Properties and establishes a flexible and reasonable procedure for the overall development, administration maintenance and preservation of the Properties. In furtherance of such plan, this Declaration provides for the creation of The Falls at Meehan Association, Inc. to own, operate and maintain Common Areas and to administer and enforce the provisions of this Declaration, the By-Laws.

Declarant hereby declares that all of the property described on Exhibit "A" and any Additional Property subjected to this Declaration by Supplemental Declaration shall be held, sold, used and conveyed subject to the following easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions which shall run with the title to the real property subjected to this Declaration. This Declaration shall be binding upon all parties having any right, title, or interest in any portion of the Properties, their heirs, successors, successors-in-title and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each owner of any portion of the Properties.

This document does not and is not intended to create a condominium within the meaning of the South Carolina Horizontal Property Act, South Carolina Code Annotated, §27-31-10, et seq.

### ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS

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

- 1.1. "Additional Property": Real property is subject to annexation to the terms of this Declaration in accordance with Article 7.
  - 1.2. "ARB": The Architectural Review Board, as described in Section 9.2.

- 1.3. "Area of Common Responsibility". The Common Area, together with those areas, if any, for which the Association has or assumes responsibility pursuant to the terms of this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, any Cost Sharing Agreement, or other applicable covenant, contract, or agreement.
- 1.4. "Articles of Incorporation" or "Articles": The Articles of Incorporation of The Falls at Meehan Homewoners' Association, Inc., as filed with the Secretary of State of the State of South Carolina, and/or The Articles of Incorporation of The Falls at Meehan Commercial Owners' Association, Inc., as filed with the Secretary of State of the State of South Carolina.
- 1.5. "Association": The Falls at Meehan Homeowners' Association. Inc., a South Carolina nonprofit mutual benefit corporation, its successors or assigns, and/or The Falls at Meehan Commercial Owners' Association. Inc., a South Carolina nonprofit mutual benefit corporation, its successors or assigns.
- 1.6. "Board of Directors" or "Board": The body responsible for administration of the Association, selected as provided in the By-Laws and serving as the board of directors under South Carolina corporate law.
- 1.7. "Builder". Any Person who purchases one (1) or more Units for the purpose of constructing improvements for later sale to consumers or who purchases one (1) or more parcels of land within the Properties for further subdivision, development, and/or resale in the ordinary course of such Person's business. Any Person occupying or leasing a Unit for residential purposes shall cease to be considered a Builder with respect to such Unit immediately upon occupancy of the Unit for residential purposes, notwithstanding that such Person originally purchased the Unit for the purpose of constructing improvements for later sale to consumers.
- 1.8. "By-Laws": The By-Laws of The Falls at Meehan Homeowners' Association, Inc. and/or The Falls at Meehan Commercial Owners' Association, as they may be amended.
- 1.9. "Class "B" Control Period": The period of time during which the Class "B" Member is entitled to appoint a Majority of the members of the Board of Directors as provided in Section 3.2.
  - 1.10. "Club": The Falls at Meehan Club.
- 1.11. "Club Facilities": The facilities and amenities owned, operated and/or maintained by the Club.
- 1.12. "Common Area": All real and personal property, including easements and licenses, which the Association owns, leases or holds possessory or use rights in for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners. The term also shall include any Exclusive Common Area, as defined below.
- 1.13. "Common Expenses": The actual and estimated expenses incurred, or anticipated to be incurred, by the Association for the general benefit of all Owners, including any reasonable

reserve, with the possible exclusion of the Commercial Lot Owners, and as the Board may find necessary and appropriate pursuant to the Governing Documents. Common Expenses shall not include any expenses incurred during the Class "B" Control Period for initial development, original construction, installation of infrastructure, original capital improvements, or other original construction costs unless approved by Voting Delegates representing a Majority of the total Class "A" votes of the Association.

- 1.14. "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 ARB.
- 1.15. "Cost Sharing Agreement": Any agreement contact or covenant between the Association and an owner or operator of property adjacent to, in the vicinity of, or within The Falls at Meehan, for the allocation of expenses for amenities and/or services that benefit both the Association and the owner or operator of such property.
- 1.16. "Days": Calendar days; provided however, if the time period by which any action required hereunder must be performed expires on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then such time period shall be automatically extended to the close of business on the next regular business day.
- 1.17. "Declarant": RNN Properties, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company, or any successor, successor-in-title, or assign who takes title to any portion of the subject real property for the purpose of development and/or sale and who is designated as the Declarant in a recorded instrument executed by the immediately preceding Declarant; provided however, there shall be only one (1) "Declarant" hereunder at any time.
- 1.18. "Development Period": The period of time during which the Declarant owns any Property which is subject to this Declaration, or any Additional Property, or has the unilateral right to subject Additional Property to this Declaration pursuant to Section 7.1. The Declarant may, but shall not be obligated to, unilaterally relinquish its rights under this Declaration and terminate the Development Period by recording a written instrument in the Public Records.
- 1.19. "Exclusive Common Area": A portion of the Common Area intended for the exclusive use or primary benefit of one (1) or more, but less than all, Neighborhoods or Units, as more particularly described in Article 2.
- 1.20. "General Assessment": Assessments levied on all Units subject to assessment under Article 8 to fund Common Expenses for the general benefit of all Units, as more particularly described in Sections 8.1 and 8.2.
- 1.21. "Governing Documents": The Declaration, By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation all Supplemental Declarations, the rules of the Association, all Cost Sharing Agreements, and all additional covenants governing any portion of the Properties or any of the above, as each may be amended from time to time.

- 1.22. "Majority": Those votes, Owners, Members, or other group, as the context may indicate, totaling more than fifty percent (50%) of the total eligible number.
- 1.23. "Master Plan": The Falls at Meehan submitted and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Pendleton, South Carolina, as it may be amended from time to time, which plan includes the property described on Exhibit "A" that Declarant may from time to time anticipate subjecting to this Declaration. Inclusion of property on the Master Plan shall not, under any circumstances, obligate Declarant to subject such property to this Declaration, nor shall the exclusion of property from the Master Plan bar its later annexation in accordance with Article 7.
  - 1.24. "Member": A Person subject to membership in the Association pursuant to Article 3.
- 1.25. "Mortgage": A mortgage, a deed of trust, a deed to secure debt, or any other form of security instrument affecting title to any Unit.
  - 1.26. "Mortgagee": A beneficiary or holder of a Mortgage.
- 1.27. "Neighborhood": A separately developed area within the Properties, whether or not governed by a Neighborhood Association (as defined below), in which the Owners of Units may have common interests other than those common to all Members of the Association. Neighborhood boundaries may be established and modified as provided in Section 3.3.
- 1.28. "Neighborhood Assessments": Assessments levied against the Units in a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods to fund Neighborhood Expenses, as described in Sections 8.1 and 8.3.
- 1.29. "Neighborhood Association." Any condominium association or other owners association having concurrent jurisdiction with the Association over any Neighborhood.
- 1.30. "Neighborhood Expenses": The actual and estimated expenses incurred or anticipated to be incurred by the Association for the benefit of Owners of Units within a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods, which may include a reasonable reserve for capital repairs and replacements as the Board may specifically authorize from time to time and as may be authorized herein or in Supplemental Declarations applicable to such Neighborhood(s).
- 1.31. "Owner": One (1) or more Persons who hold the record title to any Unit, including the Declarant and any Builders, but excluding in all cases any party holding an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation. If a Unit is owned by more than one (1) Person, all such Persons shall be jointly and severally obligated to perform the responsibilities of such Owner.
- 1.32. "Person": A natural person, a corporation, a partnership, a limited liability company, a fiduciary acting on behalf of another person or any other legal entity.

- 1.33. "Properties": The real property described on Exhibit "A" as such exhibit may be amended or supplemented from time to time to reflect any additions or removal of property in accordance with Article 7.
- 1.34. "Public Records": The Register of Deeds Conveyance Office for Anderson County, South Carolina or such other place which is designated as the official location for recording of deeds and similar documents affecting title to real estate.
- 1.35. "Residential Unit": A Unit designated by the Declarant as a "Residential Unit" and limited to use for single family residential purposes as provided in Section 13.4.
  - 1.36. "Special Assessment": Assessments levied in accordance with Section 8.5.
  - 1.37. "Specific Assessment": Assessments levied in accordance with Section 8.6.
- 1.38. "Supplemental Declaration": An instrument filed in the Public Records which subjects Additional Property to this Declaration, designates Neighborhoods, and/or imposes, expressly or by reference, additional restrictions and obligations on the land described in such instrument. The term shall also refer to any declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions and any declaration of condominium or for that specifically relates to the Commercial Development as outlined on the Master Plan.
- 1.39. "The Falls at Meehan": That certain mixed use commercial, retail, office and residential community located in the Town of Pendleton, Anderson County, South Carolina and commonly referred to as The Falls at Meehan.
- 1.40. "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 an attached or detached residence for a single family or such other non-residential use as may be permitted within The Falls at Meehan as set forth in the Master Plan. The term shall refer to the land, if any, which is part of the Unit as well as any improvements thereon. The term shall include within its meaning, by way of illustration but not limitation, townhouse units, cluster homes, patio or zero lot line homes, single-family detached houses on separately platted lots, permitted retail or service establishments, nursing homes, family day care homes, day care centers, hotels, office buildings, medical facilities, and hotels as well as vacant land intended for development as such, but shall not include Common Area, common property owned by any Neighborhood Association, or property dedicated to the public.

In the case of a building within a condominium or other structure containing multiple dwellings, each dwelling shall be deemed to be a separate Unit, unless otherwise provided by Supplemental Declaration. In the case of a non-residential use, each separately platted lot shall be deemed to be a separate Unit, regardless of the number of uses or businesses operated on such lot, unless otherwise specified by Supplemental Declaration.

In the case of an unplatted parcel of land, the parcel shall be deemed to be a single Unit until such time as a subdivision plat or condominium plat is filed with respect to all or a portion

of tie parcel. Thereafter, the portion encompassed by such plat shall contain the number of Units determined as set forth in the preceding paragraph and any portion not encompassed by such plat shall continue to be treated in accordance with this paragraph.

- 1.41. "Voting Delegate": Any representative selected by the Class "A" Members within each Neighborhood to be responsible for casting all Class "A" votes attributable to Units in the Neighborhood on matters requiring a vote of the membership (except as otherwise specifically provided in this Declaration and in the By-Laws). The term "Voting Delegate" shall also refer to any alternate Voting Delegate acting in the absence of a Voting Delegate and any Owner personally casting the vote for his or her Unit pursuant to Section 3.4.
- 1.42. "Zoning Ordinance": The Master Plan and The Town of Pendleton Zoning Ordinance, as the same maybe amended from time to time.

## ARTICLE 2: PROPERTY RIGHTS

- 2.1. <u>Common Area</u>. Every Owner shall have a right and nonexclusive easement of use, access, and enjoyment in and to the Common Area, which is appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to each Unit, subject to:
  - (a) This Declaration and all other Governing Documents;
- (b) Any restrictions or limitations contained in any deed conveying such property to the Association;
- (c) The right of the Board to adopt, amend and repeal rules regulating the use and enjoyment of the Common Area, including rules limiting the number of guests who may use the Common Area;
- (d) The right of the Association to rent, lease or reserve any portion of the Common Area to any Owner for the exclusive use of such Owner and his or her respective lessees, invitees, and guests upon such conditions as may be established by the Board;
- (e) The right of the Board to suspend the right of an Owner to use any recreational and social facilities within the Common Area and Exclusive Common Area pursuant to Section 4.3;
- (f) The right of the Board to impose reasonable requirements and charge reasonable admission or other use fees for the use of any facility situated upon the Common Area pursuant to the Governing Documents;
- (g) The right of the Board to permit use of any Common Areas by persons other than Owners, their families, lessees and guests, including but not limited to the members; employees and contractors of such Commercial Owners, and other residents within The Falls at Meehan;

- (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;
- (i) The right of the Association, acting through the Board, to dedicate or transfer all or any portion of the Common Area, subject to any approval requirements set forth in the Governing Documents;
- (j) The rights of certain Owners to the exclusive use, access and enjoyment of those portions of the Common Area designated "Exclusive Common Areas," as more particularly described in Section 2.2; and
- (k) The right of the Declarant to conduct activities and establish facilities within the Properties as provided in Article 13.

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

2.2. Exclusive Common Area. Subject to any restrictions or limitations in the deed conveying property to the association, certain portions of the Common Area may be designated as Exclusive Common Area and reserved for the exclusive use or primary benefit of Owners and occupants of Specified Units or Neighborhoods. By way of illustration and not limitation, Exclusive Common Areas may include entry features, recreational facilities, landscaped medians and cul-de-sacs, ponds, and other portions of the Common Area within a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods. All costs associated with maintenance, repair, replacement, and insurance of an Exclusive Common Area shall be assessed against the Owners of Units to which the Exclusive Common Areas are assigned either as a Neighborhood Assessment or as a Specific Assessment, as applicable.

Initially, any Exclusive Common Area shall be designated as such, and the exclusive use thereof shall be assigned, in the deed by which the Common Area is conveyed to the Association, or in this Declaration, or any Supplemental Declaration and/or on the subdivision plat relating to such Common Area; provided however, any such assignment shall not preclude the Declarant from later assigning use of the same Exclusive Common Area to additional Units and/or Neighborhoods during the Development Period. Thereafter, a portion of the Common Area may be assigned as Exclusive Common Area of particular Units or a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods and Exclusive Common Area may be reassigned upon approval of the Board and the vote of Voting Delegates representing a Majority of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, including, if applicable, a Majority of the Class "A" votes within the Neighborhood(s) to which the Exclusive Common Area is assigned, if previously assigned, and within the Neighborhood(s) to which the Exclusive Common Area is to be assigned or reassigned.

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

- 2.3. <u>No Partition</u>. Except as permitted in this Declaration, there shall be no judicial partition of the Common Area. No Person shall seek any judicial partition unless the portion of the Common Area which is the subject of such partition action has been removed from the provisions of this Declaration. This Section shall not prohibit the Board from acquiring and disposing of other real property which may or may not be subject to this Declaration.
- 2.4. Condemnation. The Association shall be the sole representative with respect to condemnation proceedings concerning Common Area and shall act as attorney-in-fact for all Owners in such matters. If any part of the Common Areas shall be taken by any authority having the power of condemnation or eminent domain or conveyed in lieu of and under threat of condemnation by the Board acting on the written direction of Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the total Class "A" votes in the Association and, during the Development Period, the written consent of the Declarant, each Owner shall be entitled to written notice of such taking or conveyance prior to disbursement of any condemnation award or proceeds of such conveyance. The award made for such taking or proceeds of such conveyance shall be payable to the Association.

If the taking or conveyance involves a portion of the Common Area on which improvements have been constructed, the Association shall restore or replace such improvements on the remaining land included in the Common Area to the extent available, unless within sixty (60) Days after such taking the Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the total Class "A" vote of the Association and, during the Development Period, the Declarant shall otherwise agree. Any such construction shall be in accordance with plans approved by the Board and the ARB. 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 may be used by the Association for such purposes as the Board shall determine.

# ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

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

to time by the Owner in a written instrument provided to the secretary of the Association.

- 3.2. <u>Voting</u>. The Association shall have two (2) classes of membership, Class "A" and Class "B.
- (a) <u>Class "A"</u>. Class "A" Members shall be all Owners except the Class "B" Member, if any. Class "A" Members shall have one (1) equal vote for each Unit in which they hold the interest required for membership under Section 3.1; provided however, there shall be only one (1) vote per Unit and no vote shall be exercised for any property which is exempt from assessment under Section 8.10. All Class "A" votes shall be cast as provided in Section 3.2(d) below.
- (b) <u>Class "B"</u>. The sole Class "B" Member shall be the Declarant. The rights of the Class "B" Member, including the right to approve, or withhold approval of, actions proposed under this Declaration, the By-Laws and the Articles, are specified in the relevant sections of this Declaration the By-Laws and the Articles. The Class "B" Member may appoint a Majority of the members of the Board of Directors during the Class "B" Control Period which shall continue until the first to occur of the following:
- i) When one hundred percent (100%) of the total number of Units permitted by the Master Plan for the property described on Exhibit "A" have certificates of occupancy issued thereon and have been conveyed to Persons other than Builders;
  - (ii) December 31, 2025; or
- (iii) when, in its discretion, the Class "B" Member so determines and voluntarily relinquishes such right.

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

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

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

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





Supplemental Declaration, create other classes of non-voting membership, with such other rights, privileges and obligations as may be specified in such Supplemental Declaration.

- 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 (1) Person seeks to exercise it. No vote shall be exercised on behalf of any Unit if any assessment for such Unit is delinquent. If Voting Delegates have been elected pursuant to Section 3.4, the vote for each Unit owned by a Class "A" Member shall be exercised by the Voting Delegate representing the Neighborhood of which the Unit is a part, as provided in such Section.
- 3.3. <u>Neighborhoods</u>. Every Unit shall be located within a Neighborhood; provided however, unless and until additional Neighborhoods are established, the Properties shall consist of one (1) Neighborhood. The Declarant, in its sole discretion, may establish Neighborhoods within the Properties by designation on Exhibit "A" to this Declaration, a Supplemental Declaration, or a plat. During the Development Period, the Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, or any plat from time to time to assign property to a specific Neighborhood, to redesignate Neighborhood boundaries, or to remove property from a specific Neighborhood.

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

The Units within a particular Neighborhood may be subject to additional covenants and/or the Unit Owners may be members of a Neighborhood Association in addition to the Association. However, a Neighborhood Association shall not be required except as required by law. Any Neighborhood which does not have a Neighborhood Association may, but shall not be obligated to, elect a Neighborhood Committee, as described in the By-Laws, to represent the interests of Owners of Units in such Neighborhood. No Neighborhood Association or Neighborhood Committee shall be formed or otherwise established without the prior submission to and written approval of Declarant of all documents creating or establishing such Neighborhood Association or Neighborhood Committee, including without limitation, the submission of any declaration of condominium, articles of incorporation, by-laws and other organizational and governing documents.

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

3.4. <u>Voting Delegates</u>. As provided below, the Owners within each Neighborhood may elect a Voting Delegate who shall be responsible for casting all votes attributable to Units owned by Class "A" Members in the Neighborhood on all Association matters requiring a membership vote, except as otherwise specified in this Declaration or the By-Laws. If a Voting Delegate is elected for a Neighborhood such Neighborhood shall also elect an alternate Voting Delegate who shall be responsible for casting such votes in the absence of the Voting Delegate. No Person shall be eligible to serve as a Voting Delegate or an alternate Voting Delegate, if any, assessment for such Person's Unit is delinquent.

The Board in its sole discretion shall determine whether Voting Delegates shall be elected for each Neighborhood; provided however, all Neighborhoods which are similarly situated shall be treated the same. If Voting Delegates will be elected for a Neighborhood, the Board shall send notice of the election to all Owners within the Neighborhood; provided however, the first election of a Voting Delegate for any Neighborhood shall not be held until at least fifty percent (50%) of the Units planned for such Neighborhood have been conveyed to Persons other than Builders. Elections of Voting Delegates and alternate Voting Delegates shall be conducted either by written ballot cast by mail or at a meeting of the Class "A" Members within such Neighborhood, as the Board determines; provided however, upon written petition signed by Class "A" Members holding at least fifty percent (50%) of the votes attributable to Units within any Neighborhood, the election for such Neighborhood shall be held at a meeting. The presence, in person or by proxy, of Class "A" Members representing at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the total Class "A" votes attributable to Units in the Neighborhood shall constitute a quorum at any Neighborhood meeting.

Each Class "A" Member who owns a Unit within the Neighborhood shall be entitled to cast one (1) equal vote per Unit owned. The candidate who receives the greatest number of votes shall be elected as Voting Delegate and the candidate receiving the next greatest number of votes shall be elected as the alternate Voting Delegate. The Voting Delegate and the alternate Voting Delegate shall serve a term of one (1) year and until their successors are elected.

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

within the Neighborhood to fill the vacancy for the remainder of such delegate's term.

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

#### ARTICLE 4: RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 4.1. <u>Function of Association</u>. The Association shall be the entity responsible for management maintenance, operation and control of the Area of Common Responsibility and all improvements thereon. The Association shall be the primary entity responsible for enforcement of this Declaration and such reasonable rules regulating use of the Properties as the Board may adopt pursuant to Article 10. The Association shall also be responsible for administering and enforcing the architectural standards and controls set forth in this Declaration. The Association shall perform its functions in accordance with the Governing Documents and the laws of the State of South Carolina.
- 4.2. Personal Property and Real Property for Common Use. The Association may acquire, hold, and dispose of tangible and intangible personal property and real property. The Declarant and its designees, with the Declarant's prior written consent, may convey to the Association improved or unimproved real estate, or interests in real estate, located within the property described in Exhibit "A". 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. Declarant shall not be required to make any improvements or repairs whatsoever to property to be conveyed and accepted pursuant to this Section including, without limitation, dredging or otherwise removing silt from any pond or other body of water that may be conveyed. Upon written request of Declarant, the Association shall reconvey to Declarant any unimproved portions of the Properties originally conveyed by Declarant to the Association for no consideration, to the extent conveyed by Declarant in error or needed by Declarant to make adjustments in property lines.
- 4.3. <u>Enforcement</u>. The Board or any committee established by the Board, with the Board's approval, may impose sanctions for violation of the Governing Documents after compliance with the notice and hearing procedures set forth in the By-Laws, if applicable. Such sanctions may include, without limitation:
- (a) imposing monetary fines which shall constitute a lien upon the Unit of the violator (In the event that any occupant, guest or invitee of a Unit violates the Governing Documents and a fine is imposed, the fine shall first be assessed against the occupant; provided however, if the fine is not paid by the occupant within the time period set by the Board, the Owner shall pay the fine upon notice from the Board.);



- (b) filing notices of violations in the Public Records providing record notice of any violation of the Governing Documents;
  - (c) suspending an Owner's right to vote;
- (d) suspending any Person's right to use any recreational facilities within the Common Area and any part of the Exclusive Common Area; provided however, nothing herein shall authorize the Board to limit ingress or egress to or from a Unit; and
- (e) suspending any services provided by the Association to an Owner or the Owner's Unit if the Owner is more than thirty (30) Days delinquent in paying any assessment or other charge owed to the Association.

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

In addition, the Board, or the covenants committee if established, may elect to enforce any provision of the Governing Documents by exercising self-help (specifically including, but not limited to, the filing of liens in the Public Records for non-payment of assessments and other charges, the towing of vehicles that are in violation of parking rules, the removal of pets that are in violation of pet rules, or the correction of any maintenance, construction or other violation of the Governing Documents) without the necessity of compliance with the procedures set forth in the By-Laws. The Association may levy a Specific Assessment to cover all costs incurred in bringing a Unit into compliance with the terms of the Governing Documents.

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

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

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

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

- 4.4. <u>Implied Rights: Board Authority</u>. The Association may exercise any right or privilege given to it expressly by this Declaration or the By-Laws, or reasonably implied from or reasonably necessary to effectuate any such right or privilege. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Declaration, the By-Laws, the Articles, or by law, all rights and Powers of the Association may be exercised by the Board without a vote of the membership.
- 4.5. Governmental Interests. During the Development Period, the Declarant may designate sites within the Properties for fire, police, and utility facilities, public schools and parks, streets, and other public or quasi-public facilities. No membership approval shall be required for such designation. The sites may include Common Area, in which case the Association shall take whatever action is required with respect to such site to permit such use, including conveyance of the site, if so directed by Declarant. The sites may include other property not owned by Declarant provided the owner of such property consents.
- 4.6. <u>Indemnification</u>. The Association shall indemnify every officer, director, ARB member and committee member against all damages, liabilities, and expenses. including reasonable attorneys fees, incurred in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any suit or proceeding, if approved by the then Board of Directors) to which he or she may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer, director, ARB member or committee member, except that such obligation to indemnify shall be limited to those actions for which liability is limited under this Section, the Articles of Incorporation and South Carolina law.

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

4.7. <u>Dedication of or Grant of Easements on Common Area</u>. The Association may dedicate or grant easements across portions of the Common Area to the Town of Pendleton, Anderson County, South Carolina, or to any other local, state, or federal governmental or quasi-governmental entity, or to any private utility company.

- 4.8. Security. Each Owner and occupant of a Unit, and their respective guests and invitees, shall be responsible for their own personal safety and the security of their property in the Properties. The Association may, but shall not be obligated to, maintain or support certain activities within the Properties designed to make the Properties safer than they otherwise might be. Neither the Association, the original Declarant, nor any successor Declarant shall in any way be considered insurers or guarantors of security within the Properties, nor shall any of them be held liable for any loss or damage by reason of failure to provide adequate security or ineffectiveness of security measures undertaken. No representation or warranty is made that any security system or measure cannot be compromised or circumvented, nor that any such system or security measure undertaken will in all cases prevent loss or provide the detection or protection for which the system is designed or intended. Each Owner acknowledges, understands and covenants to inform its tenants and all occupants of its 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. Relationship With Tax-Exempt Organizations. The Declarant or the Association may create, enter into agreements or contracts with, or grant exclusive and/or non-exclusive easements over the Common Area to non-profit, tax-exempt organizations for the benefit of the Properties and/or The Falls at Meehan. The Association may contribute money, real or personal property or services to any such entity, in addition to those transfer fees paid pursuant to Section 8.11. Any such contribution shall be a Common Expense and included as a line item in the Association's annual budget. For the purposes of this Section a "tax-exempt organization" shall mean an entity which is exempt from federal income taxes under the Internal Revenue Code, including but not limited to Sections 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) thereof.
- 4.10. Powers of the Association Relating to Neighborhood Associations. The Association may veto any action taken or contemplated by any Neighborhood Association which the Board reasonably determines to be adverse, to the interests of the Association or its Members or inconsistent with the Community-Wide Standard. The Association also may require specific action to be taken by any Neighborhood Association to fulfill its obligations and responsibilities under any Governing Document. For example, the Association may require that specific maintenance or repairs or aesthetic changes be performed by the Neighborhood Association. If the Neighborhood Association fails to comply with such requirements within a reasonable time as specified in writing by the Association, the Association may effect such action on behalf of the Neighborhood Association and assess the Units within such Neighborhood for any expenses incurred by the Association in taking such action. Such assessments may be collected as a Specific Assessment.
- 4.11. Provision of Services. The Association may provide services and facilities for the Members of the Association and their guests, lessees and invitees. The Association shall be authorized to enter into contracts or other similar agreements with other entities, including Declarant, to provide such services and facilities. The costs of services and facilities provided by the Association may be funded by the Association as a Common Expense or a Neighborhood Expense, depending on whether the service or facility is provided to all Units or only the Units within a specified Neighborhood, in addition, the Board shall be authorized to charge use and

consumption fees for services and facilities through Specific Assessments or by requiring payment at the time the service or facility is provided. As an alternative, the Association may arrange for the costs of the services and facilities to be billed directly to Owners by the provider(s) of such services and facilities. By way of example, some services and facilities which may be provided include landscape maintenance, garbage collection, pest control service, cable, digital, satellite am similar television service, internet, intranet, and other computer related services, security, caretaker, fire protection, utilities, and similar services and facilities. The Board, without the consent of the Class "A" Members of the Association, shall be permitted to modify or cancel existing services or facilities provided, if any, or to provide additional services and facilities. Nothing contained herein can be relied upon as a representation as to the services and facilities, if any, which will be provided by the Association.

- 4.12. Rezoning. No Owner or any other Person may apply or join in an application to amend, vary or modify the Zoning Ordinance applicable to, or rezone or apply for any zoning variance or waiver as to, all or any portion of the Properties without the prior written consent of Declarant. Every Person that acquires any interest in the Properties acknowledges that The Falls at Meehan is a master planned community, the development of which is likely to extend over many years, and agrees not to protest, challenge or otherwise subject to (a) changes in uses or density of property outside the Neighborhood in which such Person owns a Unit, or (b) changes in the Master Plan relating to property outside the Neighborhood in which such Person owns a Unit. Declarant may apply for such rezoning as to any portion of the Properties owned by it at any time.
- 4.13. Use of the Bodies of Water. Neither the Association, the Declarant, nor any successor Declarant shall be held liable for any loss or damage by reason of any permitted or prohibited use of any body of water, including any pond, creek or stream by Owners, their invitees, licensees, and tenants. 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 any body of water shall do so only as permitted under applicable governmental laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. The Association shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury to any Person or property arising out of the authorized or unauthorized use of any body of water, including any pond, creek or streams within the Properties. Each Person assumes all risks of personal injury, and loss or damage to property including Units, resulting from or associated with authorized or unauthorized use of any body of water, including any pond, creek or streams within the Properties.
- 4.14. Presence and Management of Wildlife, Each Owner and occupant, and each tenant, guest and invitee of any Owner or occupant acknowledges that the Properties are located adjacent to and in the vicinity of wetlands, bodies of water and other natural areas. Such areas may contain wildlife, including without limitation, deer, opossums, reptiles, and snakes. Neither the Association, the Board, the original Declarant, nor any successor Declarant shall be liable or responsible for any personal injury, illness or any other loss or damage caused by the presence of such wildlife on the Properties. Each Owner and occupant of a Unit and each tenant, guest and invitee of any Owner or occupant shall assume all risk of personal injury, illness, or other loss or damage arising from the presence of such wildlife and further acknowledges that the

Association, the Board, the original Declarant or any successor Declarant have made no representations or warranties, nor has any Owner or occupant, or any tenant, guest, or invitee of any Owner or occupant relied upon any representations or warranties expressed or implied, relative to the presence of such wildlife.

The Declarant, acting in its sole and absolute discretion, retains the right, but not the obligation, to engage in wildlife and fishery management plans and practices on the Properties to the extent that such practices are permitted by applicable state and federal law. For the purpose of illustration and not limitation, this includes the right to manage and control any populations of white-tailed deer, feral hogs, raccoons, and other wildlife through a variety of techniques, including organized hunting, shooting, trapping, relocating, sterilization, and habitat manipulation. Declarant may, in its sole discretion, commission environmental studies and reports relating to file Properties and the wildlife habitats located thereon, and may elect to follow or disregard any recommendations resulting from such studies. The Declarant may assign these management rights to the Association in which event the expenses of such activities shall be funded by General Assessments.

#### ARTICLE 5: MAINTENANCE

## 5.1. Association's Responsibility

- (a) The Association shall maintain and keep in good condition, order and repair the Area of Common Responsibility, which may include, but need not be limited to:
  - (i) all Common Area(s);
- (ii) all landscaping and other flora, parks, ponds, structures, and improvements, including any entry features, parking areas, sidewalks, and bike and pedestrian pathways/trails situated upon the Common Area;
  - (iii) all furnishings, equipment and other personal property of the Association;
- (iv) any landscaping and other flora, parks, bike and pedestrian pathways/trails, sidewalks, buffers, entry features, structures and improvements within public rights-of-way within or abutting the Properties or upon such other public land adjacent to the Properties as deemed necessary in the discretion of the Board;
- (v) such additional portions of any property included within the Area of Common Responsibility as may be dictated by this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, any Cost Sharing Agreement, or any contract or agreement for maintenance thereof entered into by the Association;
- (vi) all ponds, streams and/or wetlands located within the Properties which serve as part of the drainage and storm water retention system for the Properties, including any retaining walls, bulkheads or dams (earthen or otherwise) retaining water therein, and any

fountains, lighting, pumps, conduits, and similar equipment installed therein or used in connection therewith; and

(vii) any property and facilities owned by the Declarant and made available, on a temporary or permanent basis, for the primary use and enjoyment of the Association and its Members, such property and facilities to be identified by written notice from the Declarant to the Association and to remain a part of the Area of Common Responsibility and be maintained by the Association until such time as Declarant revokes such privilege of use and enjoyment by written notice to the Association.

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

- (b) The Association shall maintain the facilities and equipment within the Area of Common Responsibility in continuous operation, except for any periods necessary, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, to perform required maintenance or repairs, unless Members holding sixty-five percent (65%) of the Class "A" votes in the Association and during the Development Period the Declarant agree in writing to discontinue such operation.
- (c) The Association may be relieved of all or any portion of its maintenance responsibilities herein to the extent that (i) such maintenance responsibility is otherwise assumed by or assigned to an Owner or a Neighborhood Association or (ii) such property is dedicated to any local, state, or federal government or quasi-governmental entity; provided however, that in connection with such assumption, assignment or dedication, the Association may reserve or assume the right or obligation to continue to perform all or any portion of its maintenance responsibilities, if the Board determines that such maintenance is necessary or desirable to maintain the Community-Wide Standard.

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

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

hereunder.

- (e) In the event that the Association fails to properly perform its maintenance responsibilities hereunder and to comply with the Community-Wide Standard, the Declarant may, upon not less than ten (10) Days' notice and opportunity to cure such failure, cause such maintenance to be performed and in such event, shall be entitled to reimbursement from the Association for all costs incurred.
- 5.2. Owner's Responsibility. Each Owner shall maintain his or her Unit, and all structures, parking areas, sprinkler and irrigation systems, landscaping and other flora, and other improvements comprising the Unit in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard, all Governing Documents and the Zoning Ordinance, unless such maintenance responsibility is otherwise assumed by or assigned to the Association or a Neighborhood Association. Each Owner shall also maintain the driveway and mailbox serving his or her Unit and all landscaping located in any right-of-way immediately adjacent to the Owners Unit. 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. Entry by the Association or its designee under this Section shall not constitute a trespass.
- 5.3. Neighborhood's Responsibility. Upon resolution of the Board of Directors, the Owners of Units within each Neighborhood shall be responsible for paying, through Neighborhood Assessments, the costs of operating, maintaining and insuring certain portions of the Area of Common Responsibility within or adjacent to such Neighborhood. This may include, without limitation, the costs of maintaining any signage, entry features, private streets, rights-of-way, or ponds within a Neighborhood, and any greenspace between the Neighborhood and adjacent public roads, regardless of ownership or the Person performing the maintenance; provided however, all Neighborhoods which are similarly situated shall be treated the same.

Any Neighborhood Association having responsibility for maintenance within a particular Neighborhood pursuant to additional covenants applicable to such Neighborhood shall perform such maintenance responsibility in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard. If it fails to do so, the Association may perform such responsibilities and assess the costs as a Specific Assessment against all Units within such Neighborhood as provided in Section 8.6.

# 5.4. Standard of Performance.

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

responsibilities.

- (b) Owners shall be financially responsible for the repair and replacement of any vegetation/landscaping/flora on their own Lot. Owners may replace the item on their own, or contact the Board in order to have the company that performs lawn maintenance for the Association, if any, perform such task. In otherwords, should any vegetation/landscaping/flora on a Lot need replaced because of disease or decay, then the Lot Owner shall pay to have it replaced, whether or not the replacement be new sod for the lawn, a new tree, or a new shrub. The replacement item shall be of the same or similar quality and size of the item being replaced, and must meet the approval of the ARB.
- 5.5. Cost Sharing Agreements. Within The Falls at Meehan, there may be certain residential, nonresidential or recreational areas, including without limitation single family residential developments, retail, commercial, or business areas, which may or may not subject to this Declaration and which may either be Units nor Common Area as defined in this Declaration (hereinafter "adjacent properties"). The owners of such Properties may be Members of the Association, may be entitled to vote, and may be subject to assessment under Article 8 of this Declaration.

The Association may enter into one (1) or more Cost Sharing Agreements with the owners or operators of portions of Neighborhoods or adjacent properties:

- (a) to permit use of any recreational and other facilities located on the Common Areas by the owners or operators of such properties and their designees;
- (b) to obligate the owners or operators of such properties to perform, and/or to share in certain costs associated with, the maintenance, repair, replacement and insuring of portions of the Area of Common Responsibility, if any, which are used by or benefit jointly the owners or operators of such properties and the owners within the Properties;
- (c) to permit use of any recreational and other facilities located on such properties by the Owners of all Units or by the Owners of Units within specified Neighborhoods;
- (d) to obligate the Association to share in certain costs associated with the maintenance, repair, replacement and insuring of portions of such adjacent properties, if any, which are used by or benefit jointly the owners or operators of such properties and the owners within the Properties; and/or
- (e) to establish rules and regulations regarding the use of areas that benefit jointly the owners or operators of such adjacent properties and the owners within the Properties.

The owners or operators of such adjacent properties and Properties shall be subject to assessment by the Association only in accordance with the provisions of such Cost Sharing Agreement(s). If the Association is obligated to share costs incurred by the owners of such adjacent properties, such payments by the Association shall be deemed to constitute Common Expenses of the Association unless the Cost Sharing Agreement(s) provide otherwise. The

owners or operators of the adjacent properties shall not be subject to the restrictions contained in this Declaration except as otherwise specifically provided herein.

#### ARTICLE 6: INSURANCE AND CASUALTY LOSSES

#### 6.1. Association Insurance.

- (a) Required Coverages. The Association, acting through its Board or its duly authorized agent, shall obtain and continue in effect the following types of insurance, if reasonably available, or if not reasonably available, the most nearly equivalent coverages as are reasonably available:
- (i) Blanket property insurance covering "risks of direct physical loss" on a "special form" basis (or comparable coverage by whatever name denominated) for all insurable improvements on the Common Area, if any, and on other portions of the Area of Common Responsibility to the extent that it has assumed responsibility for maintenance, repair and/or replacement in the event of a casualty. If such coverage is not generally available at reasonable cost, then "broad form" coverage may be substituted. The Association shall have the authority to and interest in insuring any property for which it has maintenance or repair responsibility, regardless of ownership. All property insurance policies obtained by the Association shall have policy limits sufficient to cover the full replacement cost of the insured improvements;
- (ii) Commercial general liability insurance on the Area of Common Responsibility insuring the Association and its Members for damage or injury caused by the negligence of the Association or any of its Members, employees, agents, or contractors while acting on its behalf. If generally available at reasonable cost, the commercial general liability coverage (including primary and any umbrella coverage) shall have a limit of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence with respect to bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage, provided should additional coverage and higher limits be available at reasonable cost which a reasonably prudent person would obtain, the Association shall obtain such additional coverages or limits;
- (iii) Workers compensation insurance and employers liability insurance, if and to the extent required by law;
  - (iv) Directors and officers liability coverage;
- (v) Fidelity insurance covering all Persons responsible for handling Association funds in an amount determined in the Board's best business judgment but not less than an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6th) of the annual General Assessments on all Units plus reserves on hand. Fidelity insurance policies shall contain a waiver of all defenses based upon the exclusion of Persons serving without compensation; and
- (vi) Such additional insurance as the Board, in its best business judgment, determines advisable, which may include, without limitation, flood insurance.

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

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

Premiums for all insurance on the Area of Common Responsibility shall be Common Expenses and shall be included in the General Assessment, except that (i) premiums for property insurance obtained on behalf of a Neighborhood shall be charged to the Owners of Units within the benefitted Neighborhood as a Neighborhood Assessment; and (ii) premiums for insurance on Exclusive Common Areas may be included in the Neighborhood Assessment of the Neighborhood(s) benefitted unless the Board of Directors reasonably determines that other treatment of the premiums is more appropriate. In the event of an insured loss, the deductible shall be treated as a Common Expense or a Neighborhood Expense and assessed in the same manner as the premiums for the applicable insurance coverage. However, if the Board reasonably determines, after notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with the By-Laws, that the loss is the result of the negligence or willful misconduct of one (1) or more Owners, their guests, invitees, or lessees, then the Board may specifically assess the full amount of such deductible against such Owner(s) and their Units pursuant to Section 8.6.

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

All Association policies shall provide for a certificate of insurance to be furnished to the Association and to each Member upon request. The policies may contain a reasonable deductible and the amount thereof shall not be subtracted from the face amount of the policy in determining whether the policy limits satisfy the requirements of Section 6.1(a).

(c) <u>Damage and Destruction</u>. In the event of any insured loss, only the Board or its duly authorized agent may file and adjust insurance claims and obtain reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repair or reconstruction. Repair or reconstruction, as used in this subsection, means repairing or restoring the property to substantially the condition in which it existed prior to the damage, allowing for changes or improvements necessitated by changes in applicable building codes.

Any damage to or destruction of the Common Area shall be repaired or reconstructed unless the Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the total Class "A"

votes in the Association, and during the Development Period the Declarant decide within sixty (60) Days after the loss not to repair or reconstruct.

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

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

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

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

6.2. Owners' Insurance. By virtue of taking title to a 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, unless either the Neighborhood Association (if any) for the Neighborhood in which the Unit is located or the Association carries such insurance (which they may, but are not obligated to do hereunder). If the Association assumes responsibility for obtaining any insurance coverage on behalf of Owners, the premiums for such insurance shall be levied as a Specific Assessment against the benefitted Unit and the Owner thereof pursuant to Section 8.6.

Each Owner further covenants and agrees that in the event of damage to or destruction of structures on or comprising his or her 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 9. 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.

The, requirements of this Section shall also apply to any Neighborhood Association that owns common property within the Neighborhood in the same manner as if the Neighborhood

Association were an Owner and the common property were a Unit. Additional recorded covenants applicable to any Neighborhood may establish more stringent requirements for insurance and more stringent standards for rebuilding or reconstructing structures on the Units within such Neighborhood and for clearing and maintaining the Units in the event the structures are not rebuilt or reconstructed.

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

7.1. Annexation by Declarant. Until thirty (30) years after the recording of this Declaration in the Public Records, Declarant may from time to time unilaterally subject to the provisions of this Declaration all or any portion of the Additional Property. The Declarant may transfer or assign this right to annex property, provided that the transferee or assignee is the developer of at least a portion of the real property described in Exhibit "A" and that such transfer is memorialized in a written, recorded instrument executed by Declarant.

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

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed to require the Declarant or any successor to annex or develop any of the Additional Property in any manner whatsoever.

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

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

- 7.3. Withdrawal of Property. The Declarant reserves the right to amend this Declaration during the Development Period for the purpose of removing any portion of the Properties from the coverage of this Declaration, provided such withdrawal is not contrary to the overall, uniform scheme of development for the Properties. Such amendment shall not require the consent of any Person other than the owner of the property to be withdrawn, if not the Declarant. If the property is Common Area, the Association shall consent to such withdrawal.
- 7.4. Additional Covenants and Easements. The Declarant may unilaterally subject any portion of the Properties to additional covenants and easements, including covenants

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

7.5. <u>Amendment</u>. This Article shall not be amended during the Development Period without the prior written consent of Declarant.

#### ARTICLE 8: ASSESSMENTS

8.1. <u>Creation of Assessments</u>. There are hereby created assessments for Association expenses as the Board may specifically authorize from time to time. There shall be four (4) types of assessments: (a) General Assessments to fund Common Expenses for the general benefit of all Units; (b) Neighborhood Assessments for Neighborhood Expenses benefitting only Units within a particular Neighborhood or Neighborhoods; (c) Special Assessments as described in Section 8.5; and (d) Specific Assessments as described in Section 8.6. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or entering into a recorded contact of sale for any portion of the Properties, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay these assessments.

All assessments and other charges, together with interest, late charges, costs of collection, and reasonable attorneys fees, shall be a charge and continuing lien upon each Unit against which the assessment or charge is made until paid, as more particularly provided in Section 8.7. Each such assessment or charge, together with interest, late charges, costs, and reasonable attorneys fees, also shall be the personal obligation of the Person who was the Owner of such 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 written statement signed by an Association officer or designee setting forth whether such assessment has been paid. Such statement shall be conclusive evidence of payment. The Association may require the advance payment of a reasonable processing fee for the issuance of such statement.

Assessments shall be paid in such manner and on such dates as the Board may establish, which may include discounts for early payment or similar time/price differentials. The Board may require advance payment of assessments at closing of the transfer of title to a Unit, as stipulated below, and impose special requirements for Owners with a history of delinquent payment. Unless the Board otherwise provides, the General Assessment and any Neighborhood

Assessment shall be due and payable in advance on the first day of each month. If any Owner is delinquent in paying any assessments or other charges levied on his or her Unit, the Board may require any unpaid installments of all outstanding assessments to be paid in full immediately. Any assessment or installment thereof shall be considered delinquent on the fifteenth (15th) day following the due date unless otherwise specified by Board resolution.

Unless otherwise provided by the Board or the Declarant, at the closing of the transfer of title to a Unit other than to a Builder, three (3) months of the General Assessment, and Neighborhood Assessment, if applicable, shall be collected in advance. The first month shall be pro-rated as of the closing date. The other remaining two (2) months, shall be placed in the respective accounts for which they were collected and shall be applied to the next two (2) subsequent months. However, should the Lot not be landscaped at the time of said closing, the next two (2) subsequent months shall not commence, until such Lot is landscaped. In otherwords, if the Purchaser buys the house on January 1, and three (3) months of Assessments are collected at closing, and the Lot is not landscaped until March 1, the Purchaser's next Assessment shall be due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This provision shall not apply to the Owners of Commercial Lots.

No Owner may exempt himself or herself from liability for assessments by non-use of Common Area, including Exclusive Common Area reserved for such Owner's use, abandonment of his or her 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 contacts 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. <u>Computation of General Assessments</u>. At least sixty (60) Days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a budget covering the estimated Common Expenses during the coming year, which may include a contribution to establish a reserve fund in accordance with a budget separately prepared as provided in Section 8.4.

General Assessments shall be levied equally against all Units subject to assessment and 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 any reserves. This provision may not apply to the Owners of Commercial Lots if so determined by the Declarant and the Board. In determining the level of General Assessments, the Board, in its discretion, may consider other sources of funds available to the Association, including any surplus from prior years, any assessment income expected to be generated from any additional Units reasonably anticipated to become subject to assessment during the fiscal year, and any income expected to be generated from any Cost Sharing Agreement.

At its option, the Board may include in the budget for the General Assessment, expenses the Association will incur for maintenance of entry features, or other expenses, which while attributable to particular Neighborhoods, are similar in nature and amount among the Neighborhoods. The base amount common to all Neighborhoods shall be paid as a General Assessment, with expenses in excess of the base amount, if any, to be paid as a Neighborhood Expense and funded through a Neighborhood Assessment.

During the Development Period, the Declarant may, but shall not be obligated to, reduce the General Assessment for any fiscal year by payment of a subsidy and/or contributions of services and materials, which may be treated as either a contribution or a loan, in the Declarant's discretion. Any such anticipated payment or contribution by the Declarant shall be disclosed as a line item in the Common Expense budget. Payments by the Declarant in any year shall under no circumstances obligate the Declarant to continue such payments in future years, unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between the Association and the Declarant

The Board shall send a copy of the budget and notice of the amount of the General Assessment for the following year to each Owner at least thirty (30) Days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year for which it is to be effective. Such budget and assessment shall become effective unless disapproved at a meeting by Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the total Class "A" votes in the Association and, during the Development Period, by the Declarant. There shall be no obligation to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the budget except on petition of the Voting Delegates as provided for special meetings in the By-Laws, which petition must be presented to the Board within twenty (20) Days after delivery of the notice of assessments. If a meeting is requested, assessments pursuant to such proposed budget shall not become effective until after such meeting is held, provided such assessments shall be retroactive to the original effective date of the budget if the budget is not disapproved at such meeting.

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

8.3. Computation of Neighborhood Assessments. At least sixty (60) Days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a separate budget covering the estimated Neighborhood Expenses for each Neighborhood on whose behalf Neighborhood Expenses are expected to be incurred during the coming year. The Board shall be entitled to set such budget only to the extent that this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, or the By-Laws specifically authorizes the Board to assess certain costs as a Neighborhood Assessment. Any Neighborhood may request that additional services or a higher level of services be provided by the Association and, upon approval of Owners in accordance with Section 3.3, any additional costs shall be added to such budget. In addition, any excess expenses over and above the base amount for similar Neighborhood expenses paid through the General Assessment shall be added

to such budget. Such budget may include a contribution establishing a reserve fund for repair and replacement of capital items maintained as a Neighborhood Expense, if any, within the Neighborhood. Neighborhood Expenses shall be allocated equally among all Units within the Neighborhood(s) benefitted thereby and levied as a Neighborhood Assessment.

The Board shall cause a copy of such budget and notice of the amount of the Neighborhood Assessment for the coming year to be delivered to each Owner of a Unit in the Neighborhood at least thirty (30) Days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Such budget and assessment shall become effective unless disapproved by Owners of a Majority of the Units in the Neighborhood to which the Neighborhood Assessment applies and, during the Development Period, by the Declarant. There shall be no obligation to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the budget except on petition of Owners of at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the Units in such Neighborhood. This right to disapprove shall apply only to those line items in the Neighborhood budget which are attributable to services requested by the Neighborhood. If a meeting is requested, assessments pursuant to such proposed budget shall not become effective until after such meeting is held, provided such assessments shall be retroactive to the original effective date of the budget if the budget is not disapproved at such meeting.

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

All amounts which the Association collects as Neighborhood Assessments shall be expended solely for the benefit of the Neighborhood for which they were collected and shall be accounted for separately from the Association's general funds.

- 8.4. <u>Reserve Budget</u>. The Board may, in its sole discretion, annually prepare reserve budgets for both general and Neighborhood purposes which take into account the number and nature of replaceable assets within the Area of Common Responsibility, the expected life of each asset, and the expected repair or replacement cost. The Board shall include in the general and Neighborhood budgets reserve amounts sufficient to meet the projected needs of the Association.
- 8.5. Special Assessments. In addition to other authorized assessments, the Association may levy Special Assessments from time to time to cover unbudgeted expenses or expenses in excess of those budgeted. Any such Special Assessment maybe levied against all Units, if such Special Assessment is for Common Expenses, or against the Units within any Neighborhood if such Special Assessment is for Neighborhood Expenses. Special Assessments shall be allocated equally among all Units subject to such Special Assessment. Any Special Assessment shall become effective unless disapproved at a meeting by Voting Delegates representing at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the total Class 'A' votes allocated to Units which will be subject to such Special Assessment and, during the Development Period, by the Declarant. There shall be no obligation to call a meeting for the purpose of considering any Special Assessment except on petition of the Voting Delegates as provided for special meetings in the By-Laws, which petition must be presented to the Board within twenty (20) Days after delivery of the notice of such

Special Assessment. Special Assessments shall be payable in such manner and at such times as determined by the Board, and may be payable in installments extending beyond the fiscal year in which the Special Assessment is approved.

- 8.6. Specific Assessments. The Association shall have the power to levy Specific Assessments against a particular Unit or Units as follows:
- (a) to cover the costs, including overhead and administrative costs, of providing benefits, items, or services to the Unit(s) 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, garbage collection, pest control service, cable, digital, satellite or similar television service, internet, intranet, and other computer related services, security, caretaker, fire protection, utilities, and similar services and facilities), which assessments may be levied in advance of the provision of the requested benefit, item or service as a deposit against charges to be incurred by the Owner:
- (b) to cover the costs associated with maintenance, repair, replacement and insurance of any Exclusive Common Area assigned to one (1) or more Units; and
- (c) to cover all costs incurred in bringing the Unit(s) into compliance with the terms of the Governing Documents, or costs incurred as a consequence of the conduct of the Owner or occupants of the Unit, their agents, contractors, employees, licensees, invitees, or guests.

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

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

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

The Declarant or the Association may bid for the 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 allocated to the Unit owned by the Association. The Association may sue for unpaid assessments and other charges authorized hereunder without foreclosing or waiving the lien securing the same.

The sale or transfer of any 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 Mortgage 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.

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

- 8.8. Date of Commencement of Assessments. The obligation to pay assessments shall commence as to each Unit on the date on which the Unit is conveyed to a Person other than the Declarant or a Builder or the month in which the Board first determines a budget and levies assessments pursuant to this Article, whichever is later. The first annual General Assessment and Neighborhood Assessment, if any, levied on each Unit shall be adjusted according to the number of days remaining in the fiscal year at the time assessments commence on the Unit.
- 8.9. Failure to Assess. Failure of the Board to establish assessment amounts or rates or to deliver or mail each Owner an assessment notice shall not be deemed a waiver, modification, or a release of any Owner from the obligation to pay assessments. In such event, each Owner shall continue to pay General Assessments and Neighborhood Assessments on the same basis as during the last year for which an assessment was made, if any, until a new assessment is levied, at which time the Association may retroactively assess any shortfalls in collections.
- 8.10. Exempt Property. The following property shall be exempt from payment of General Assessments, Neighborhood Assessments, and Special Assessments:
- (a) All Common Area and such portions of the property owned by the Declarant as are included in the Area of Common Responsibility pursuant to Section 5.1;
- (b) Any property dedicated or otherwise conveyed to and accepted by any governmental authority or public utility;

- (c) Any property that is owned by a charitable, nonprofit corporation or public agency whose primary purposes include the acquisition and preservation of open space for public benefit and held by such agency or organization for such recreational and open space purposes; and
- (d) Property owned by any Neighborhood Association, or by the members of a Neighborhood Association as tenants-in-common, for the common use and enjoyment of all members within the Neighborhood.
- 8.11. Transfer Fee. Upon acquisition of a record title to a Lot by an Owner thereof other than the Declarant or a Builder, a contribution shall be made to the working capital of the Association in the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), unless otherwise changed by the Board. This amount shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, the annual General Assessment per Lot, and shall not be considered an advance payment of such assessment. This amount shall be collected and disbursed to the Association at closing of the purchase and sale of the Lot if said purchaser is not a Builder. This fee shall be used by the Association in covering operating expenses and other expenses incurred by the Association pursuant to the governing documents.

## ARTICLE 9: ARCHITECURAL STANDARDS

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

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

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

9.2. Architectural Review. Responsibility for administration of the design guidelines and review of all applications for construction and modifications under this Article shall be handled by the reviewing body described below. The reviewing bodies shall consist of one (1) or more Persons who may, but are not required to be Members of the Association or representatives of Members, and may, but need not, include architects, landscape architects, engineers or similar professionals, whose compensation, if any, shall be established from time to time by the ARB. The reviewing body may establish and charge reasonable fees for review of applications hereunder and may require such fees to be paid in full prior to review of any application. Such fees may include the reasonable costs incurred in having any application reviewed by architects, engineers or other professionals.

- (a) Architectural Review Board. The ARB shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all construction on any portion of the Properties. Until one hundred percent (100%) of the Properties have been developed and conveyed to Owners other than Builders and the Declarant and initial construction on each Unit has been completed in accordance with the standards as approved by the ARB, the Declarant retains the right to appoint the members of the ARB who shall serve at the Declarant's discretion. There shall be no surrender of this right prior to that time except in a written instrument in recordable form executed by Declarant. Upon the expiration or surrender of such right, the Board shall appoint the members of the ARB, who shall thereafter serve and may be removed in the Board's discretion.
- 9.3. Procedures. Plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, color, size, materials, and location of all proposed structures and improvements shall be submitted to the appropriate reviewing body for review and approval (or disapproval). In addition, information concerning irrigation systems, drainage, lighting, landscaping and other features of proposed construction shall be submitted and conform to the design guidelines. In reviewing each submission, the reviewing bodies may consider the quality of workmanship and design, harmony of external design with existing structures, and location in relation to surrounding structures, topography, and finish grade elevation, among other considerations. Decisions may be based solely on aesthetic considerations. Each Owner acknowledges that opinions on aesthetic matters are subjective and may vary over time.

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

Notwithstanding the above, the ARB by resolution may exempt certain activities from the application and approval requirements of this Article, provided such activities are undertaken in strict compliance with the requirements of such resolution. Any Owner may remodel, paint or redecorate the interior of structures on his or her Unit without approval. However, modifications to the interior of screened porches, patios, and similar portions of a Unit visible from outside the structures on the Unit shall be subject to approval. No approval shall be required to repaint the exterior of a structure in accordance with the originally approved color scheme or to rebuild in accordance with originally approved plans and specifications.

9.4. Architect and General Contractor Approval. In order to ensure that appropriate standards of construction are maintained throughout the Properties, all architects, Builders and general contractors must be approved by the ARB prior to engaging in any construction activities. The ARB shall implement an approval process utilizing established criteria and requiring the submission of a written application for approval. Both the criteria and the application form are subject to change in the sole discretion of the ARB. Approval of architects, Builders and contractors may not be construed as a recommendation of a specific architect, Builder or contractor by the ARB or the Declarant, nor a guarantee or endorsement of the work

of such architect, Builder or contractor. Once approved (unless such approval is withdrawn by the ARB), an approved architect, Builder or contractor shall not be required to re-submit to the approval process.

## 9.5. Specific Guidelines and Restrictions.

- (a) Exterior Structures and Improvements. Exterior structures and improvements shall include, but shall not be limited to, staking, clearing, excavation, grading and other site work; initial construction of any dwelling or accessory building; exterior alteration of existing improvements; installation or replacement of mailboxes; basketball hoops; swing sets and similar sports and play equipment; clotheslines; garbage cans; wood piles; swimming pools; docks, piers, or boathouses; gazebos or playhouses; window air-conditioning units or fans; hot tubs; solar panels; antennas; satellite dishes or any other apparatus for the transmission or reception of television, radio, satellite, or other signals of any kind; hedges, walls, dog runs, animal pens, or fences of any kind, including invisible fences; artificial vegetation or sculpture; and planting or removal of landscaping materials. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Declarant and the Association shall regulate antennas, satellite dishes, or any other apparatus for the transmission or reception of television, radio, satellite or other signals of any kind only in strict compliance with all federal laws and regulations.
- (b) In addition to the foregoing activities requiring prior approval, the following items are strictly regulated, and the reviewing body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to prohibit or restrict these items within the Properties. Each Owner must strictly comply with the terms of this Section unless approval or waiver in writing is obtained from the appropriate reviewing body. The ARB may, but is not required to, adopt additional specific design guidelines.
- (i) Signs. No sign of any character shall be displayed or placed upon any Lot, except "for rent" or "for sale" signs, which signs shall refer only to that particular premises on which displayed, and shall not extend more than four (4) feet above the surface of the ground; signs shall not exceed 24" X 36" in size; sign material must be "wood" or "metal" and professionally painted or printed and enclosed in a frame; and shall be fastened only to a stake in the ground, unless otherwise approved by the Delcarant, or the ARB, or their successors and assigns. The ARB may enter upon any lot and summarily remove and destroy any signs which do not meet the provisions of this paragraph, or have been approved in writing as provided herein; provided, however, that the Declarant, or any person or entity designated by the Declarant, may erect or maintain such commercial and display signs on such lots, temporary dwellings, sales offices, model houses or other structures as Declarant may deem advisable for development purposes, so long as the Declarant continues to own lots in the Subdivision.
- (ii) <u>Tree Removal.</u> No trees that are more than six (6) inches in diameter at a point two (2) feet above the ground shall be removed without the prior written consent of the appropriate reviewing body; provided however, any trees, regardless of their diameter, that are located within ten (10) feet of a drainage area, a sidewalk, a residence, or a driveway, or any diseased or dead flees needing to be removed to promote the growth of other trees or for safety reasons may be removed without the written consent of the appropriate reviewing body. The

appropriate reviewing body may adopt or impose requirements for, or condition approval of, tree removal upon the replacement of any tree removed. The above requirements shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any requirements with respect to tree removal imposed by any governmental authority.

- (iii) <u>Lighting</u>. Exterior lighting visible from the street shall not be permitted except for: (1) approved lighting as originally installed on a Unit; (2) one (1) approved decorative post light; (3) pathway lighting; (4) street lights in conformity with an established street lighting program for the Properties; (5) seasonal decorative lights during the usual and common season; (6) front house illumination of model homes; or (7) any additional lighting as may be approved by the appropriate reviewing body.
- (iv) <u>Temporary or Detached Structures</u>. Except as may be permitted by the ARB during initial construction, no temporary house, dwelling, garage or outbuilding shall be placed or erected on any Unit. Except as provided in Section 10.7(b), no mobile home, trailer home, travel trailer, camper or recreational vehicle shall be stored, parked or otherwise allowed to be placed on a Unit as a temporary or permanent dwelling.
- (v) Accessory Structures. With the approval of the ARB, detached accessory structures may be placed on a Residential Unit to be used for a playhouse, swimming pool, tennis court, tool shed, doghouse, garage or other approved use. A garage may also be an attached accessory structure. Such accessory structures shall conform in exterior design and quality to the dwelling on the Residential Unit. With the exception of a garage that is attached to a dwelling and except as may be provided otherwise by the ARB, an accessory structure placed on a Residential Unit shall be located only behind the dwelling as such dwelling fronts on the street abutting such Residential Unit or in a location approved by the ARB. All accessory structures shall be located within side and rear set back lines as may be required by the ARB or by applicable zoning law.
- (vi) <u>Utility Lines</u>. Overhead utility lines, including lines for cable television, are not permitted except for temporary lines as required during construction and lines installed by or at the request of Declarant.
- (vii) <u>Standard Mailboxes</u>. All dwellings within the Properties shall have standard mailboxes conforming to postal regulations and the guidelines for such mailboxes adopted by the ARB, unless there are community mailboxes provided for the Lot. The ARB may adopt different standard mailboxes for each Neighborhood. By accepting a deed to a Residential Unit, each Owner agrees that the ARB may remove any nonapproved mailbox in a reasonable manner; all costs for same shall be paid by Owner of such Residential Unit, and all claims for damages caused by the ARB are waived.
  - (viii) Minimum Dwelling Size. The Declarant or the ARB may establish a minimum square footage of enclosed, heated and cooled living space for residential dwellings, which minimum may vary from one (1) Neighborhood to another. Upon written request of an Owner, the ARB may waive the minimum square footage requirement if, in the ARB's sole discretion, the resulting appearance of such residential dwelling will preserve and

conform to the overall appearance scheme, design, value and quality within the Properties.

- (ix) Section 9.5(b) shall apply to Residential Lot Owners and does not apply to Commercial Lot Owners.
- 9.6. <u>Construction Period</u>. The Declarant may require that an Owner commence construction on a Unit within a stated period after the conveyance of the Unit to such Owner. In the event that a building requirement is not imposed and the Owner does not commence construction within ninety (90) days after obtaining title to the Unit, the Owner shall proceed to landscape the Unit in accordance with the requirements of the design guidelines as approved by the ARB.

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

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

- 9.7. No Waiver of Future Approvals. Approval of proposals, plans and specifications, or drawings for any work done or proposed, or in connection with any other matter requiring approval, shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to withhold approval as to any similar proposals, plans and specifications, drawings, or other matters subsequently or additionally submitted for approval.
- 9.8. <u>Variance</u>. The ARB may authorize variances from compliance with any of its guidelines and procedures when circumstances such as topography, natural obstructions, hardship, or aesthetic or environmental considerations require, but only in accordance with duly adopted rules and regulations. Such variances may only be granted, however, when unique circumstances dictate and no variance shall (a) be effective unless in writing; (b) be contrary to this Declaration; or (c) prevent the ARB from denying a variance in other circumstances. For purposes of this Section, the inability to obtain approval of any governmental agency, the issuance of any permit, or the terms of any financing shall not be considered a hardship warranting a variance.
- 9.9. <u>Limitation of Liability</u>. The criteria and requirements established by the ARB for approval of architects, Builders and contractors are solely for the Declarant's protection and benefit and are not intended to provide the Owner with any form of guarantee with respect to any approved architect, Builder or contractor. Owner's selection of an architect, Builder, or contractor shall be conclusive evidence that the Owner is independently satisfied with any and all

concerns Owner may have about the qualifications of such architect, Builder or contractor. Furthermore, Owner waives any and all claims and rights that Owner has or may have now or in the future against the ARB or the Declarant.

The standards and procedures established pursuant to this Article are intended to provide a mechanism for maintaining and enhancing the overall aesthetics of the Properties only, and shall not create any duty to any Person. Review and approval of any application pursuant to this Article is made on the basis of aesthetic considerations only, and neither the Declarant the Association, the Board, the ARB shall bear any responsibility for ensuring the structural integrity or soundness of approved construction or modifications, the adequacy of soils or drainage, nor for ensuring compliance with building codes and other governmental requirements, nor for ensuring that all dwellings are of comparable quality, value or size, of similar design, or aesthetically pleasing or otherwise acceptable to neighboring property owners. Neither the Declarant, the Association, the Board, the ARB or any committee, or member of any of the foregoing shall be held liable for any injury, damages, or loss arising out of the manner or quality of approved construction on or modifications to any Unit. In all matters, the committees and their members shall be defended and indemnified by the Association as provided in Section 4.6.

9.10. Enforcement. The Declarant, any member of the ARB, or the Board, or the representatives of each shall have the right, during reasonable hours and after reasonable notice, to enter upon any Unit to inspect for the purpose of ascertaining whether any structure or improvement is in violation of this Article. Any structure, improvement or landscaping placed or made in violation of this Article shall be deemed to be nonconforming. Upon written request from the ARB, Owners shall, at their own cost and expense, remove such structure or improvement and restore the property to substantially the same condition as existed prior to the nonconforming work. Should an Owner fail to remove and restore the property as required, any authorized agent of Declarant, the ARB, or the Board shall have the right to enter the property, remove the violation, and restore the property to substantially the same condition as previously existed. Entry for such purposes and in compliance with this Section shall not constitute a trespass. In addition, the Board may enforce the decisions of the Declarant, the ARB by any means of enforcement described in Section 4.3. All costs, together with the interest at the maximum rate then allowed by law, may be assessed against the benefitted Unit and collected as a Specific Assessment pursuant to Section 8.6.

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. If, after commencement, any Person fails to 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 the By-Laws, 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 pursuant to Section 8.6.

Neither the ARB, or any member of the foregoing nor the Association, the Declarant, or their members, officers or directors shall be held liable to any Person for exercising the rights granted by this Article. Any contractor, subcontractor agent, employee, or other invitee of an

Owner who fails to comply with the terms and provisions of this Article may be excluded by the ARB from the Properties, subject to the notice and hearing procedures contained in the By-Laws.

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

#### ARTICLE 10: USE RESTRICTIONS

- with by all Owners and occupants of any Unit. The Properties shall be used only for such purposes permitted within The Falls at Meehan, as described in the Master Plan, which includes residential, commercial, recreational and related Purposes, such as model homes, sales offices for Builders, an information center and/or a sales office for any real estate broker retained by the Declarant to assist in the sale of property described on Exhibit "A", offices for any property manager retained by the Association, business offices for the Declarant or the Association or related parking facilities, and such purposes as are consistent with this Declaration and any Supplemental Declaration. As set forth in Section 13.4, the Declarant may, during the Development Period, specifically limit and designate the uses permitted for any Unit or group of Units to one (1) or more of the uses permitted within The Falls at Meehan, as described in the Master Plan. Such specific permitted use designations may be amended only as provided in Article 13.
- 10.2. Rules and Regulations. In addition to the use restrictions set forth in this Article, the Board may, from time to time, without consent of the Members, promulgate, modify, or delete rules and regulations applicable to the Properties. Such rules shall be distributed to all Owners and occupants prior to the date that they are to become effective and shall thereafter be binding upon all Owners and occupants until and unless overruled, canceled, or modified in a regular or special meeting by Members holding a Majority of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, and, during the Development Period, the written consent of the Declarant.
- 10.3. Occupants Bound. All provisions of the Declaration, By-Laws, and of any rules and regulations, or use restrictions governing the conduct of Owners and establishing sanctions against Owners shall also apply to all occupants even though occupants are not specifically mentioned.
- 10.4. Leasing. Residential Units may be leased for residential purposes only. All leases of any Unit, or any portion thereof, shall require, without limitation, that the tenant acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Declaration, By-Laws, use restrictions, and rules and regulations of the Association. The lease shall also obligate the tenant to comply with the foregoing. The Board may require notice of any lease together with such additional information deemed necessary by the Board.
- 10.5. Residential Use. Residential Units may be used only for residential purposes of a single family and for ancillary business, home occupation or home office uses. A business, home

occupation, or home office use shall be considered ancillary so long as: (a) the existence or operation of the activity is not apparent or detectable by sight, sound, or smell from outside the Residential Unit; (b) the activity conforms to all zoning requirements for the Properties; (c) the activity does not involve regular visitation of the Residential Unit by clients, customers, employees, suppliers, or other invitees or door-to-door solicitation of residents of the Properties; (d) the activity does not increase traffic or include frequent deliveries within the Properties; (e) the Owner of such Residential Unit obtains a special zoning permit from the Town of Pendleton Zoning Administrator; and (f) the activity is consistent with the residential character of the Properties and does not constitute a nuisance, or a hazardous or offensive use, or threaten the security or safety of other residents of the Properties, as may be determined in the sole discretion of the Board. Additionally, the Developer reserves the right to build a Model Home for the use of home sales in the Development as provided in Section 10.1.

No other business, trade, or similar activity shall be conducted upon a Residential Unit without the prior written consent of the Board. The terms "business" and "trade," as used in this provision, shall be construed to have their ordinary, generally accepted meanings and shall include, without limitation, any occupation, work, or activity undertaken on an ongoing basis which involves the provision of goods or services to persons other than the provider's family and for which the provider receives a fee, compensation, or other form of consideration, regardless of whether: (a) such activity is engaged in full or part-time, (b) such activity is intended to or does generate a profit, or (c) a license is required.

The leasing of a Residential Unit shall not be considered a business or trade within the meaning of this Section. This Section shall not apply to any activity conducted by the Declarant or a Builder approved by the Declarant with respect to its development and sale of the Properties or its use of any Units which it owns within the Properties, including the operation of a timeshare or similar program nor shall this Section apply to any Unit which has not been designated as a "Residential Unit."

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

## 10.7. Vehicles.

(a) Automobiles and non-commercial trucks and vans shall be parked only in the garages or in the driveways serving the Residential Units unless otherwise approved by the ARB; provided however, the Declarant and/or the Association may designate certain on-street parking areas for visitors or guests subject to reasonable rules. No automobile or non-commercial truck or van may be left upon any portion of the Properties, except in a garage, if it is unlicensed or if it is in a condition such that it is incapable of being operated upon the public highways. Such vehicle shall be considered a nuisance and may be removed from the Properties. No motorized vehicles shall be permitted on pathways or unpaved Common Area except for public safety vehicles authorized by the Board.

- (b) Recreational vehicles shall be parked only in the garages, if any, serving the Units or, with the prior written approval of the ARB, other hard-surfaced areas which are not visible from the street. "Visibility" shall be determined by the ARB in its sole discretion. The term "recreational vehicles," as used herein, shall include, without limitation, motor homes, mobile homes, boats, "jet skis" or other watercraft, trailers, other towed vehicles, motorcycles, minibikes, scooters, go-carts, golf carts, campers, buses, commercial trucks and commercial vans. Any recreational vehicle parked or stored in violation of this provision shall be considered a nuisance and may be removed from the Properties. The Declarant and/or the Association may designate certain parking areas within the Properties for recreational vehicles subject to reasonable rules and fees, if any.
- (c) Service and delivery vehicles may be parked in the Properties during daylight hours for such periods of time as are reasonably necessary to provide service or to make a delivery within the Properties.
- (d) All vehicles shall be subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the Board of Directors may adopt.
- 10.8. <u>Use of Common Area</u>. There shall be no obstruction of the Common Area, nor shall anything be kept, parked or stored on any part of the Common Area without the prior written consent of the Association, except as specifically provided herein.

With the prior written approval of the Board of Directors, and subject to any restrictions imposed by the Board, an Owner or Owners may reserve portions of the Common Area for use for a period of time as set by the Board. Any such Owner or Owners who reserve a portion of the Common Area as provided herein shall assume, on behalf of himself/herself/themselves and his/her/their guests, occupants and family, all risks associated with the use of the Common Area and all liability for any damage or injury to any person or thing as a result of such use. The Association shall not be liable for any damage or injury resulting from such use unless such damage or injury is caused solely by the willful acts or gross negligence of the Association, its agents or employees.

- 10.9. Animals and Pets. No animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind may be raised, bred, kept, or permitted on any Residential Unit, with the exception of dogs, cats, or other usual and common household pets in reasonable number, as determined by the Board. No animals shall be kept, bred or maintained for commercial purposes without prior written Board approval. All pets shall be reasonably controlled by the owner whenever outside a Unit and shall be kept in such a manner as to not become a nuisance by barking or other acts. The owners of the pet shall be responsible for all of the pet's actions. Pets shall not be permitted in any pond or other body of water. If, in the sole opinion of the Board, any animal becomes dangerous or an annoyance or nuisance in the Properties or to nearby property or destructive of wildlife, such animal shall be removed from the Properties. By way of explanation and not limitation, this Section may be enforced by exercising self-help rights provided is Section 4.3.
- 10.10. Nuisance. It shall be the responsibility of each Owner and occupant to prevent the development of any unclean, unhealthy, unsightly, or unkempt condition on his or her property.

No property within the Properties shall be used, in whole or in part, for the storage of any property or thing that will cause such Unit to appear to be in an unclean or untidy condition or that will be obnoxious to the eye; nor shall any substance, thing, or material be kept that will emit foul or obnoxious odors or that will cause any noise or other condition that will or might disturb the peace, quiet, safety, comfort, or serenity of the occupants of surrounding property.

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

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

- 10.11. Storage of Materials, Garbage, Dumping, Etc. All garbage cans shall be located or screened so as to be concealed from view of neighboring sweets and property. All rubbish, trash, and garbage shall be regularly removed and shall not be allowed to accumulate. There shall be no dumping of grass clippings, leaves or other debris; rubbish, trash or garbage; petroleum products, fertilizers, or other potentially hazardous or toxic substances in any drainage ditch, stream, pond, or lake within the Properties, except that fertilizers maybe applied to landscaping on Units provided care is taken to minimize runoff.
- 10.12. Combustible Liquid. There shall be no storage of gasoline, propane, heating oil or other fuels, except for a reasonable amount of fuel that may be stored in containers appropriate for such purpose on each Unit for emergency purposes and operation of lawnmowers and similar tools or equipment and except as may be approved in writing by the ARB. The Association shall be permitted to store fuel for operation of maintenance vehicles, generators and similar equipment.
- 10.13. <u>Guns</u>. The discharge of firearms on the Properties is prohibited. The term "firearms" includes without limitation "B-B" guns, pellet guns, and firearms of all types. The Board may impose fines and exercise other enforcement remedies as set forth in this Declaration, but shall have no obligation to exercise self-help to prevent or stop any such discharge.
- 10.14. Subdivision of Unit. No Unit shall be subdivided or its boundary lines changed after a subdivision plat including such Unit has been approved and filed in the Public Records without the Declarant's prior written consent during the Development Period, and the prior written consent of the ARB thereafter. In addition, no home shall be subdivided or partitioned to create housing for more than a single family. Declarant however, hereby expressly reserves the

right to replat any Unit or Units which it owns. Any such division, boundary line change, or replatting shall not be in violation of the applicable subdivision and zoning regulations, if any.

- 10.15. <u>Site Plan Approval</u>. The Declarant shall have the right to review and approve any subdivision of any portion of the Properties, including the right to approve all preliminary or final site plans and subdivision plats, Unit lay-outs and street locations. The Declarant shall also have the right to approve the size, density and configuration of any subdivided parcels within the Properties.
- 10.16. <u>Sight Distance at intersections</u>. All property located at street intersections or driveways shall be landscaped and improved so as to permit safe sight across such areas. No fence, wall, hedge or shrub shall be placed or permitted to remain where it would cause a traffic or sight problem.

## 10.17. Drainage and Grading.

- (a) Catch basins and drainage areas are for the purpose of natural flow of water only. No improvements, obstructions or debris shall be placed in these areas. No Owner or occupant may obstruct or rechannel the drainage flows after location and installation of drainage swales, storm sewers, or storm drains.
- (b) Each Owner shall be responsible for maintaining all drainage areas located on its Unit. Required maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, maintaining ground cover in drainage areas and removing any accumulated debris from catch basins and drainage areas.
- (c) Each Owner shall be responsible for controlling the natural and manmade water flow from its Unit. No Owner shall be entitled to overburden the drainage areas or drainage system within any portion of the Properties with excessive water flow from its Unit. Owners shall be responsible for all remedial acts necessary to cure any unreasonable drainage flows from Units. Neither the Association nor the Declarant bears any responsibility for remedial actions to any Unit.
- (d) No Person shall alter the grading of any Unit without prior approval pursuant to Article 9 of this Declaration. The Declarant hereby reserves for itself and the Association a perpetual easement across the Properties for the purpose of altering drainage and water flow. The exercise of such an easement shall not materially diminish the value of or unreasonably interfere with the use of any Unit without the Owner's consent.
- 10.18. <u>Irrigation</u>. Owners shall not install irrigation systems which draw upon ground or surface waters nor from any lakes or ponds within the Properties. However, the Declarant and the Association shall have the right to draw water from such sources for the purpose of irrigating the Area of Common Responsibility.
- 10.19. Streams. No streams which run across any Unit may be dammed, or the water therefrom impounded, diverted, or used for any purpose without the prior written consent of the

Board, except that the Declarant shall have such rights as provided in Article 11.

- 10.20. <u>Ponds and Other Water Bodies</u>. All ponds and streams within the Properties, if any, shall be used only in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be adopted and published by the Board. Swimming, boating, and other active uses of ponds or other bodies of water within the Properties shall be prohibited, unless approved by the Association.
- 10.21. Wetlands. All areas designated on a recorded plat as "wetlands" shall be generally left in a natural state, arid any proposed alteration of the wetlands must be in accordance with any restrictions or covenants recorded against such property and be approved by all appropriate regulatory bodies. Prior to any alteration of a Unit, the Owner shall determine if any portion thereof meets the requirements for designation as a regulatory wetland. If approved, the Association may maintain boardwalks, and fishing docks, around, and in such wetlands. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section, the Declarant, the Association, and the successors, assigns, affiliates and designees of each may conduct such activities as have been or may be permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or any successor thereof responsible for the regulation of wetlands.
- 10.22. <u>Club Facilities</u>. Owners, as well as their families, tenants, guests, invitees, and pets, shall refrain from an actions which would distract from the qualities of the Club Facilities. This covenant is for the benefit of the Club Facilities and the Club and persons using the Club Facilities and shall be enforceable by the Club.
- 10.23. <u>Timesharing</u>. No Unit shall be made subject to or be operated as a timesharing, fraction-sharing, or similar program whereby the right to exclusive use of the Unit rotates among participants in the program on a fixed or floating time schedule over a period of years.

# ARTICLE 11: EASEMENTS

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

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

## 11.2 Easements for Utilities Etc.

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

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

- (b) Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares for itself during the Development Period and its designees non-exclusive, perpetual, reciprocal, appurtenant easements, and the non-exclusive right and power to grant such specific easements as may be necessary, in the sole discretion of Declarant, in connection with the orderly development of any property described on Exhibit "A".
- (c) Any damage to a Unit resulting from the exercise of the easements described in subsections (a) and (b) of this Section shall promptly be repaired by, and at the expense of, the Person exercising the easement. The exercise of these easements shall not extend to permitting entry into the structures on any Unit, nor shall it unreasonably interfere with the use of any Unit, and except in an emergency, entry onto any Unit shall be made only after reasonable notice to the Owner or occupant.
- (d) Declarant reserves unto itself the right, in the exercise of its sole discretion, upon the request of any Person holding, or intending to hold, an interest in the Properties, or at any other time, (i) to release all or any portion of the Properties from the burden, effect, and encumbrance of any of the easements granted or reserved under this Section, or (ii) to define the limits of any such easements.
- 11.3. Easement for Slope Control Drainage and Waterway Maintenance. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant easements, for itself, the Association, and their respective representatives, successors and assigns, contractors and agents, over, across, under, through and upon each Unit for the purposes of:

- (a) controlling soil erosion, including grading and planting with vegetation any areas of any Unit which are or may be subject to soil erosion;
- (b) drainage of natural or man-made water flow and water areas from any portion of the Properties;
- (c) changing, modifying or altering the natural flow of water, water courses or waterways on or adjacent to any Unit or Common Area;
- (d) dredging, enlarging, reducing or maintaining any water areas or waterways within the Properties; and
- (e) installing such pipes, lines, conduits or other equipment as may be necessary for slope control, drainage and waterway maintenance of any portion of the Properties.
- 11.4. Easements to Serve Additional Property. The Declarant reserves creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant easements for itself and its duly authorized successors and assigns, over the Common Area for the purposes of enjoyment, use, access, and development of the Additional Property, whether or not such property is made subject to this Declaration. This easement includes, but is not limited to, a right of ingress and egress over the Common Area for construction of roads, for the posting of signs, and for connecting and installing utilities serving the Additional Property. Declarant agrees that it and its successors or assigns shall be responsible for any damage caused to the Common Area as a result of vehicular traffic connected with development of the Additional Property.
- declares non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant easements for the Association to enter upon any Unit for emergency, security, and safety reasons. Such right maybe exercised by any member of the Board, the Association's officers, committee members, agents, employees and managers of the Association, and by all police officers, fire fighters, ambulance personnel, and similar emergency personnel in the performance of their duties. Except in emergencies, entry onto a Unit shall be only during reasonable hours and after notice to and permission from the Owner. This easement includes the right to enter any Unit to cure any condition which may increase the possibility of fire, slope erosion, immediate risk of personal injury, or other hazard if an Owner fails or refuses to cure the condition within a reasonable time after request by the Board, but shall not authorize entry into any dwelling without permission of the Owner, except by emergency personnel acting in their official capacities. Entry under this Section shall not constitute a trespass.
- establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant rights and easements for the Association to enter all portions of the Properties, including each Unit, to (a) perform its maintenance responsibilities under Articles, and (b) make inspections to ensure compliance with the Governing Documents. Except in emergencies, entry onto a Unit shall be only during reasonable hours. This easement shall be exercised with a minimum of interference to the quiet enjoyment to Owners' property, and any damage shall be repaired by the Association at its

expense. Entry under this Section shall not constitute a trespass.

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

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

Declarant further reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares for itself and its successors, assigns and designees, and the Association the non-exclusive, perpetual, appurtenant right and easement of access and encroachment over the Common Area and Units (but not the dwellings thereon) adjacent to or within fifty (50) feet of ponds, streams and wetlands in order to (a) temporarily flood and back water upon and maintain water over such portions of the Properties; (b) fill, drain, dredge, deepen, clean, fertile, dye, and generally maintain the ponds, streams, and wetlands within the Area of Common Responsibility; (c) maintain and landscape the slopes and banks pertaining to such ponds, streams, and wetlands; (d) disturb existing landscaping; and (e) pile dirt and plant materials. All persons entitled to exercise these easements shall use reasonable care in, and repair any damage resulting from the intentional exercise of such easements. All affected areas shall be restored to a neat and attractive condition to the extent practical, as soon as reasonably possible after completion of any construction or maintenance activities authorized in this Declaration. Nothing herein shall be construed to make Declarant or other Person liable for damage resulting from flooding due to heavy rainfall or other natural disasters.

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

11.8. <u>Lateral Support</u>. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares non-exclusive, perpetual, reciprocal, appurtenant easements over every portion of the Common Area, every Unit, and any improvement which contributes to the lateral support of another portion of the Common Area or of another Unit, shall be burdened with an easement for lateral

support, and each shall also have the right to lateral support which shall be appurtenant to and pass with title to such property.

- 11.9. Easement for Special Events. Declarant reserves, creates, establishes, promulgates and declares for itself, its successors, assigns and designees a perpetual, non-exclusive appurtenant easement over the Common Area for the purpose of conducting or allowing its designees to conduct educational, cultural, entertainment, promotional or sporting events, and other activities of general community interest at such locations and times as Declarant, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or other instrument conveying any interest in a Unit acknowledges and agrees that the exercise of this easement may result in a temporary increase in traffic, noise, gathering of crowds, and related inconveniences, and each Owner agrees on behalf of itself and the occupants of its Unit to take no action, legal or otherwise, which would interfere with the exercise of such easement or to recover damages for or as the result of any such activities.
- 11.10. Rights to Stormwater Runoff, Effluent and Water Reclamation. Declarant hereby reserves for itself and its designees, all rights to ground water, surface water, storm water runoff, and effluent located or produced within the Properties, and each Owner agrees, by acceptance of a deed to a Unit, that Declarant shall retain all such rights. Such right shall include an easement over the Properties for access, and for installation and maintenance of facilities and equipment to capture and transport such water, runoff and effluent.
- 11.11. <u>Liability for Use of Easements</u>. No Owner shall have a claim or cause of action against the Declarant, its successors or assigns, arising out of the exercise or non-exercise of any easement reserved hereunder or shown on any subdivision plat for the Properties, except in cases of willful or wanton misconduct.

### ARTICLE 12: MORTGAGEE PROVISIONS

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

- 12.1. <u>Notices of Action</u>. An institutional holder, insurer, or guarantor of a first Mortgage who provides a written request to the Association (such request to state the name and address of such holder, insurer, or guarantor and the street address of the Unit to which its Mortgage relates, thereby becoming an "Eligible Holder"), will be entitled to timely written notice of:
- (a) Any condemnation loss or any casualty loss which affects a material portion of the Properties or which affects any Unit on which there is a first Mortgage held, insured, or guaranteed by such Eligible Holder;
- (b) Any delinquency in the payment of assessments or charges owed by a Unit subject to the Mortgage of such Eligible Holder, where such delinquency has continued for a

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

- (c) Any lapse, cancellation, or material modification of any insurance policy maintained by the Association; or
- (d) Any proposed action which would require the consent of a specified percentage of Eligible Holders pursuant to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation requirements.
- 12.2. <u>No Priority</u>. No provision of this Declaration or the By-Laws gives or shall be construed as giving any Owner or other party priority over any rights of the first Mortgagee of any Unit in the case of distribution to such Owner of insurance proceeds or condemnation awards for losses to or a taking of the Common Area.
- 12.3. <u>Notice to Association</u>. Upon request, each Owner shall be obligated to furnish to the Association the name and address of the holder of any Mortgage encumbering such Owner's Unit.
- 12.4. <u>Failure of Mortgagee to Respond</u>. Any Mortgagee who receives a written request from the Board to respond to or consent to any action shall be deemed to have approved such action if the Association does not receive a written response from the Mortgagee within thirty (30) Days of the date of the Association's request, provided such request is delivered to the Mortgagee by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.
- 12.5. <u>Construction of Article 12</u>. Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed to reduce the percentage vote that must otherwise be obtained under the Declaration, By-Laws, or South Carolina law for any of the acts set out in this Article.

# ARTICLE 13: DECLARANT'S RIGHTS

- 13.1 <u>Transfer or Assignment</u>. Any or all of the special rights and obligations of the Declarant set forth in the Governing Documents may be transferred or assigned in whole or in part to the Association or to other Persons, provided that the transfer shall not reduce an obligation nor enlarge a right beyond that which the Declarant has under this Declaration or the By-Laws. Upon any such transfer, the Declarant shall be automatically released from any and all liability arising with respect to such transferred rights and obligations. No such transfer or assignment shall be effective unless it is in a written instrument signed by the Declarant and duly recorded in the Public Records.
- 13.2. Development and Sales. The Declarant and Builders authorized by Declarant may maintain and carry on the Properties such activities as, in the sole opinion of the Declarant, may be reasonably required, convenient, or incidental to the development of the Properties and/or the construction or sale of Units, such as sales, activities, tournaments, charitable events, and promotional events, and restrict Members from using the Common Area during such activities. Such activities shall be conducted in a manner to minimize (to the extent reasonably possible)

any substantial interference with the Members' use and enjoyment of the Common Area. In the event that any such activity necessitates exclusion of Owners from Common Areas, such activities shall not exceed seven (7) consecutive Days. The Declarant and authorized Builders shall have easements over the Properties for access, ingress and conducting such activities.

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

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

- 13.3. <u>Improvements to Common Areas</u>. 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 malting, constructing and installing such improvements to the Common Area as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion.
- 13.4. <u>Limitations on Use</u>. During the Development Period, the Declarant, acting in its sole and absolute discretion, retains the right, but not the obligation, to limit the use of any portion of the Properties, including any Unit or group of Units, to one (1) or more, but less than all, of the uses permitted with The Falls at Meehan pursuant to the Master Plan. By way of example, the Declarant may designate certain Units as "Residential Units" and limit the use of such Residential Units to single family residential use. In the alternative, the use of a Unit or group of Units may be limited to a nonresidential use permitted under the Master Plan.

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.

The limitations on use imposed by the Declarant may not be changed without the written consent of the Declarant during the Development Period. Thereafter, or at such time as the Declarant assigns its rights in this regard to the Association, any change in the limitations on use shall require the consent of the Board and the Owner(s) of the affected Unit set forth in a written instrument recorded in the Public Records.

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

Declarant pursuant to Section 7.4, may conflict with the Declaration, By-Laws or Articles.

- 13.6. Right of Class "B" Member to Disapprove Actions. So long as the Class "B" membership exists, the Class "B" Member shall have the 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 Governing Documents, or interfere with development of, construction on, or marketing of any portion of The Falls at Meehan, or diminish the level of services being provided by the Association. This right to disapprove is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any right to approve or disapprove specific actions of the Association, the Board or any committee as may be granted to the Class "B" Member or the Declarant in the Governing Documents.
- (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 the Class "B" Member has registered with the secretary of the Association, which notice complies with the By-Laws 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 such meeting. The Class "B" Member may waive its right to receive notice in the same manner as provided in the By-Laws.
- (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. The Class "B" Member, its representatives or agents may make its concerns, thoughts, and suggestions known to the Board and/or the members of the subject committee.
- (c) No action, policy or program subject to the right of disapproval set forth herein shall become effective or be implemented until and unless the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) above have been met and the time period set forth in subsection (d) below has expired.
- (d) The Class "B" Member, acting through any officer or director, agent or authorized representative, may exercise its right to disapprove at any time within ten (10) 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 ten (10) Days following receipt of written notice of the proposed action. No action, policy or program shall be effective or implemented if the Class "B" Member exercises its right to disapprove. 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.
- 13.7. <u>Amendments</u>. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this Declaration, no amendment to or modification of any use restrictions and rules made after termination of the Class "B" Control Period shall be effective without prior notice to and the written consent of the

Declarant, during the Development Period. This Article may not be amended without the written consent of the Declarant. The rights contained in this Article shall terminate upon the earlier of (a) forty (40) years from the date this Declaration is recorded, or (b) upon recording by Declarant of a written statement that all sales activity has ceased.

### ARTICLE 14: CLUB MEMBERSHIP

## 14.1. Club Membership and Other Club Matters

- Mandatory Club Membership. Every Residential Owner, other than the Declarant or a Builder, shall be a "Club Member". If a Unit is owned by more than one (1) Person, the Club shall issue only one (1) Club membership; provided that others may be purchased at the price set by the Board. The Club membership is transferred upon sale or conveyance of the Unit. All Owners shall be subject to the usage requirements established by the Club in the Club's sole discretion from time to time. All Owners shall be subject to the bylaws, rules, regulations, and charges of the Club. Within ninety (90) days after the closing of the purchase of a Unit, each Owner shall be required to complete a membership profile. Upon completion of the profile, the Club Membership shall entitle the Owner and his of her family and guests to membership privileges at the Club in accordance with the Club's membership program. The Owner shall have no right of reimbursement or refund for initiation fees or deposits related to the Club Membership, if applicable.
- (b) <u>Mandatory Club Membership Dues.</u> Payment of the Homeowners dues for the General Assessment shall include the payment of any dues associated for membership to the Club for a Residential Owner. However, additional memberships for Homeowners and for memberships for Commercial Lot Owners, are available and a separate fee for said memberships will be set by the Board. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or entering into a contract of sale for any portion of the Properties, is deemed to have notice of liability for these Club Membership Dues and to covenant and agree to pay the assessments, if applicable.
- (c) <u>Amount of Club Membership Dues.</u> The Club Membership Dues shall be set by the Board.

Notwithstanding the above, the Club Membership Dues may be substantially increased when any of the following events occurs:

- (i) the Club adds new facilities or significantly enhances existing facilities that are available for use by Club Members;
- (ii) the Club suffers a casualty loss or incurs costs due to unexpected repairs to the Club affecting facilities that are available for use by Club members;
- (iii) the aggregate amount of Club membership Dues collected by the Club is insufficient to cover the expenses incurred by the Club to maintain,

operate and insure the facilities that are available for use by Club members; or

- (iv) The Board of Directors consents to an increase in writing upon the Club's submission of information evidencing to the satisfaction of the Board, the reason for such increase.
- (d) <u>Lien for Club membership Dues.</u> The Club shall have a lien against each Unit to secure payment of delinquent Club membership Dues, if applicable, as well as interest at a rate to be set by the Club (subject to the maximum interest rate limitation of South Carolina law), costs of collection and reasonable attorneys' fees. Such lien shall be superior to all other liens, except (i) the liens of all taxes, bonds, assessments, and other levies which by law would be superior, (ii) the lien or charge of any first Mortgage of record (meaning any recorded Mortgage with first priority over other Mortgage) made in good faith and for value, and (iii) the lien(s) of the Association pursuant to Section 8.7 of this Declaration, regardless of the date of recording of such lien(s). The Club's lien may be enforced by suit, judgment, and judicial or non-judicial foreclosure as permitted under South Carolina law.

Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, as a condition precedent to the Club's obtaining lien rights, and/ or enforcement rights pursuant to the terms of this Section, the Club must first provide the Association with twenty (20) Days prior written notice of the Club's intent to record a lien against a Unit, and/or proceed with other judicial or non-judicial foreclosure of the lien.

The sale or transfer of any Unit shall not affect the Club's assessment lien nor relieve such Unit from the lien for any subsequent Club assessments. A Mortgagee or other purchaser of a Unit who obtains title pursuant to foreclosure of the Mortgage shall not be personally liable for Club membership Dues due prior to such acquisition of title.

# ARTICLE 15: GENERAL PROVISIONS

## 15.1. Duration.

- (a) Unless terminated as provided in Section 15.1(b), this Declaration shall have perpetual duration. If South Carolina law hereafter limits the period during which covenants may run with the land, then to the extent consistent with such law, this Declaration shall automatically be extended at the duration of such period for successive periods of ten (10) years each, unless terminated as provided herein. Notwithstanding the above, if any of the covenants, conditions, restrictions, or other provisions of this Declaration shall be unlawful, void, or voidable for violation of the rule against perpetuities, then such provisions shall continue only until twenty-one (21) years after the death of the last survivor of the now living descendants of Elizabeth II, Queen of England.
- (b) Unless otherwise provided by South Carolina law, in which case such law shall control, this Declaration may not be terminated within thirty (30) years of the date of recording without the consent of all Owners. Thereafter, it may be terminated only by an instrument signed

by Owners of at least seventy-five (75%) of the total Units within the Properties and by the Declarant, if the Declarant owns any portion of the Properties, which instrument is recorded in the Public Records. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to permit termination of any easement created in this Declaration without the consent of the holder of such easement.

## 15.2. Amendment.

- (a) By Declarant. Until termination of the Class "B" membership, Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration for any purpose. Thereafter, the Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration at any time and from time to time if such amendment is necessary (i) to bring any provision into compliance with any applicable governmental statute, rule, regulation, or judicial determination; (ii) to enable any reputable title insurance company to issue title insurance coverage on the Units; (iii) to enable any institutional or governmental lender, purchaser, insurer or guarantor of Mortgage loans, including, for example, the Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to make, purchase, insure or guarantee Mortgage loans on the Units; or (iv) to satisfy the requirements of any local, state or federal governmental agency. However, any such amendment shall not adversely affect the title to any Unit, unless the Owner shall consent in writing. In addition, during the Development Period, Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration for any other purpose, provided the amendment has no material adverse effect upon any right of any Owner.
- (b) <u>By Members</u>. Except as otherwise specifically provided above and elsewhere in this Declaration, this Declaration may be amended only by the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Voting Delegates representing sixty-five percent (65%) of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, including sixty-five percent (65%) of the Class "A" votes held by Members other than the Declarant, and, during the Development Period, the written consent of the Declarant.

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

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

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

- 15.3. Severability. Invalidation of any provision of this Declaration, in whole or in part, or any application of a provision of this Declaration by judgment or court order shall in no way affect other provisions or applications.
- 15.4. Dispute Resolution. It is the intent of the Association and the Declarant to encourage the amicable resolution of disputes involving the Properties and to avoid the emotional, and financial costs of litigation if at all possible. Accordingly, the Association, the Declarant and each Owner covenants and agrees that it shall attempt to resolve all claims, grievances or disputes involving the Properties, including, without limitation, claims, grievances or disputes arising out of or relating to the interpretation, application or enforcement of the Governing Documents through alternative dispute resolution methods, such as mediation and arbitration. To foster the amicable resolution of disputes, the Board may adopt alternative dispute resolution procedures.

Participation in alternative dispute resolution procedures shall be voluntary and confidential. Should either party conclude that such discussions have become unproductive or unwarranted, then the parties may proceed with litigation.

- shall be commenced or prosecuted by the Association unless approved by a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Voting Delegates. A Voting Delegate representing Units owned by Persons other than himself or herself shall not vote in favor of bringing or prosecuting any such proceeding unless authorized to do so by a vote of Owners holding seventy-five percent (75%) of the total votes attributable to Units in the Neighborhood represented by the Voting Delegate. This Section shall not apply, however, to (a) actions brought by the Association to enforce the provisions of the Governing Documents (including, without limitation, the foreclosure of liens); (b) the imposition and collection of assessments as provided in Article 8; (c) proceedings involving challenges to ad valorem taxation; d) counter-claims brought by the Association in proceedings instituted against it or (e) actions brought by the Association against any contractor, vendor, or supplier of goods or services arising out of a contract for services or supplies. This Section shall not be amended unless such amendment is approved by the percentage of votes, and pursuant to the same procedures, necessary to institute proceedings as provided above.
- 15.6. Non-Merger. Notwithstanding the fact that Declarant is the current owner of the Properties, it is the express intention of Declarant that the easements established in the Declaration for the benefit of the Properties and Owners shall not merge into the fee simple estate of individual lots conveyed by Declarant or its successor, but that the estates of the Declarant and individual lot owners shall remain as separate and distinct estates. Any conveyance of all or a portion of the Properties shall be subject to the terms and provisions of this Declaration, regardless of whether the instrument of conveyance refers to this Declaration.
- 15.7. Grants. The parties hereby declare that this Declaration, and the easements created herein shall be and constitute covenants running with the fee simple estate of the Properties. The grants and reservations of easements in this Declaration are independent of any covenants and contractual agreements undertaken by the parties in this Declaration and a breach by either party of any such covenants or contractual agreements shall not cause or result in a

forfeiture or reversion of the easements granted or reserved in this Declaration.

- 15.8. Cumulative Effect: Conflict. The provisions of this Declaration shall be cumulative with any additional covenants, restrictions, and declarations applicable to any Neighborhood, and the Association may, but shall not be required to, enforce the covenants, conditions, and provisions applicable to any Neighborhood; provided however, in the event of a conflict between or among this Declaration and such covenants or restrictions, and/or the provisions of any articles of incorporation, by-laws, rules and regulations, policies, or practices adopted or carried out pursuant thereto, this Declaration, the By-Laws. Articles, and use restrictions and rules of the Association shall prevail over those of any Neighborhood. The foregoing priorities shall apply, but not be limited to, the lien for assessments created in favor of the Association. Nothing in this Section shall preclude any Supplemental Declaration or other recorded declaration, covenants and restrictions applicable to any portion of the Properties from containing additional restrictions or provisions which are more restrictive than the provisions of this Declaration, and the Association shall have the standing and authority to enforce the same.
- 15.9. Use of the "The Falls at Meehan" Name and Logo. No Person shall use the words "The Falls at Meehan" or the logo for "The Falls at Meehan" in any printed or promotional material without the Declarant's prior written consent. However, Owners may use the words "The Falls at Meehan" in printed or promotional matter where such terms are used solely to specify that particular property is located within The Falls at Meehan and the Association and any other community association located in The Falls at Meehan shall be entitled to use the words "The Falls at Meehan" in their names.
- 15.10. Compliance. Every Owner and occupant of any Unit shall comply with the Governing Documents. Failure to comply shall be grounds for an action by the Association or by any aggrieved Owner(s) to recover sums due, for damages or injunctive relief, or for any other remedy available at law or in equity, in addition to those enforcement powers granted to the Association in Section 4.3.
- 15.11. Notice of Sale or Transfer of Title, Any Owner desiring to sell or otherwise transfer title to a Unit shall give the Board at least seven (7) Days prior written notice of the name and address of the purchaser or transferee, the date of such transfer of title, and such other information as the Board may reasonably require. The transferor shall continue to be jointly and severally responsible with the transferee for all obligations of the Owner of the Unit, including assessment obligations, until the date upon which such notice is received by the Board, notwithstanding the transfer of title.
- 15.12. Exhibits. Exhibit "A" attached to this Declaration is incorporated by this reference and amendment of such exhibits shall be governed by the provisions of Section 15.2.
- 15.13. <u>View Impairment</u>. Neither the Declarant or the Association, guarantees or represents that any view over and across the Development from Units will be preserved without impairment. Any such additions or changes may diminish or obstruct any view from the Units and any express or implied easements for view purposes or for the passage of light and air are hereby expressly disclaimed. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed, acknowledges that any view

of the Development which the Unit may enjoy as of the date of the purchase of the Unit may be impaired or obstructed by the natural growth of existing landscaping, the installation of additional trees, other landscaping or other types of improvements or barriers (both natural and artificial) on the Development.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Declarant has executed this Declaration this day of February, 2007.

RNN Properties, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company

By:

t's Member

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

INTHE PRESENCE OF:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County of

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT** 

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE me the undersigned witness and made oath that s/he saw RNN Properties, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company, by and through, its authorized Member, sign, seal and as the act and deed of paid company, deliver the foregoing Declaration; and that s/he, together with the other Witness(es) subscribed above, witnessed the execution thereof.

SWORN TO BEFORE me this

day of February, 2007

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires:

-16-15

#### EXHIBIT "A"

ALL those certain pieces, parcels or lots of land lying and being situate in the state of South Carolina, county of Anderson being shown and designated as Tract A, containing 67.759 Acres, Tract B, containing 29.799 Acres and Tract C, containing 6.679 Acres, on a plat prepared by Thomas E. Belcher, RLS #16126, dated February 25, 2004 and recorded in Plat Book 1602 at page 3 & 4, records of Anderson County, South Carolina, reference to which is invited for a more complete and accurate description.

070003549 2/02/2007 02:43:49 PM FILED, RECORDED, INDEXED Bk: 07834 Ps: 00217 Pases:062 Rec Fee: 68.00 St Fee: Co Fee: REGISTER OF DEEDS, ANDERSON CO, SC Shirley McElhannon