

EXHIBIT "D"

BY-LAWS

OF

HIDDEN CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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BY-LAWS
OF
HIDDEN CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Article I

Name, Membership, Applicability, and Definitions

Section 1. Name. The name of the Association shall be Hidden Creek Homeowners Association, Inc. (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Association").

Section 2. Membership. The Association shall have one class of membership, as is more fully set forth in that Declaration of Protective Covenants for Hidden Creek, (such Declaration, as amended, renewed, or extended from time to time is hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Declaration"), the terms of which pertaining to membership are specifically incorporated by reference herein.

Section 3. Definitions. The words used in these By-Laws shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Declaration, unless the context shall prohibit.

Article II

Association: Meetings, Quorum, Voting, Proxies

Section 1. Place of Meetings. Meetings of the Association shall be held at the principal office of the Association or at such other suitable place convenient to the members as may be designated by the Board of Directors, either in the Community or as convenient thereto as possible and practical.

Section 2. First Meeting and Annual Meetings. An annual or special meeting shall be held within one (1) year from the date the Declaration is recorded. Annual meetings shall be set by the Board so as to occur no later than sixty (60) days after the close of the Association's fiscal year. If the day for the annual meeting of the members is a legal holiday, the meeting will be held at the same hour on the first day following which is not a legal holiday (excluding Saturday and Sunday).

Section 3. Special Meetings. The President may call special meetings. In addition, it shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting of the Association if so directed by resolution of a Majority of the Board of Directors or upon a petition signed by Owners holding at least twenty-five (25%) percent of the total Association vote. The notice of any special meeting shall state the date, time and place of such meeting and the purpose thereof. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting, except as stated in the notice.

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

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

Section 6. Adjournment of Meetings. If any meetings of the Association cannot be held because a quorum is not present, a Majority of the members who are present at such meeting, either in person or by proxy, may

adjourn the meeting to a time not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) days from the time the original meeting was called. At such adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present, any business which might have been transacted at the meeting originally called may be transacted without further notice.

Section 7. Voting. The voting rights of the members shall be as set forth in the Declaration, and such voting rights are specifically incorporated herein.

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

Section 9. Quorum. The presence, in person or by proxy, of Owners holding at least twenty-five (25%) percent of the total eligible Association vote shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Association. The members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.

Article III

Board of Directors: Number, Powers, Meetings

A. Composition and Selection.

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

Section 2. Directors Appointed by Declarant. Declarant shall have the right to appoint or remove any member or members of the board of Directors or any officer or officers of the Association until such time as the first of the following events shall occur: (a) the expiration of ten (10) years after the date of the recording of the Declaration; (b) the surrender by Declarant in writing of the authority to appoint and remove Directors and officers of the Association. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed to or other conveyance of a Lot, vests in Declarant such authority to appoint and remove Directors and officers of the Association. The Directors selected by the Declarant need not be Owners or residents in the Community. The names of the initial Directors selected by the Declarant are set forth in the Articles of Incorporation of the Association.

Section 3. Number of Directors. The Board shall consist of three (3) members.

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

Section 5. Election and Term of Office. Not later than thirty (30) days after termination of the Declarant's right to appoint Directors and officers as described in Section 2 of this Article, the Association shall call a meeting to be held at which Owners shall elect three (3) Directors. The term of two (2) Directors shall expire two (2) years after the first annual meeting following termination of the Declarant's right to appoint directors, and the term of one (1) Director shall expire one (1) year after such annual meeting. At the expiration of the first term of office of each member of the initial Board of Directors, a successor shall be elected to serve for a term of two (2) years. The members of the Board of Directors shall hold office until their respective successors shall have been elected by the Association.

At each annual meeting of the membership thereafter, Directors shall be elected to succeed those Directors whose terms are expiring. All eligible members of the Association shall vote on all Directors to be elected, and the candidate(s)

receiving the most votes shall be elected.

Section 6. Removal of Directors. At any regular or special meeting of the Association duly called, any one or more of the members of the Board of Directors may be removed, with or without cause, by a Majority of the total Association vote and a successor may then and there be elected to fill the vacancy thus created. A Director whose removal has been proposed by the Owners shall be given at least ten (10) days notice of the calling of the meeting and the purpose thereof and shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting. Additionally, any Director who has three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from Board meetings or who is delinquent in the payment of an assessment for more than twenty (20) days may be removed by a Majority vote of the Directors at a meeting, a quorum being present. This Section shall not apply to Directors appointed by Declaration

Section 7. Vacancies. Vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by any reason, excluding the removal of a Director by vote of the Association, shall be filled by a vote of the Majority of the remaining Directors, even though less than a quorum, at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Each Director so selected shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of his predecessor.

B. Meetings

Section 8. Organization Meetings. The first meeting of the members of the Board of Directors following each annual meeting of the membership shall be held within ten (10) days thereafter at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Board.

Section 9. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such time and place as shall be determined from time to time by a Majority of the Directors, but at least two (2) such meetings shall be held during each fiscal year. Notice of the regular schedule shall constitute sufficient notice of such meetings.

Section 10. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held when requested by the president, Vice President or by any two (2) Directors. The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and nature of any special business to be considered. The notice shall be given to each Director by one of the following methods: (a) by personal delivery; (b) written notice by first class mail, postage prepaid; (c) by telephone communication, either directly to the Director or to a Person at the Director's home or office who would reasonable be expected to communicate such notice promptly to the Director; or (d) by telegram, charges prepaid. All such notices shall be given or sent to the Director's address or telephone number as shown on the records of the Association. Notices sent by first class mail shall be deposited into a United States mailbox at least four (4) days before the time set for the meeting. Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, or telegraph company shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time set for the meeting.

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

Section 12. Quorum of Board of Directors. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, a Majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the votes of a Majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute the decision of the Board of Directors. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business notwithstanding the withdrawal of Directors, if any action taken is approved by at least a Majority of the required quorum for that meeting. If any meeting cannot be held because a quorum is not present, a Majority of the directors who are present at such meeting may adjourn the meeting to a time not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) days from the time that the original meeting was called. At such adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present, any business which might have been transacted at the meeting originally called may be transacted without further notice.

Section 13. Compensation. No Director shall receive any compensation from the Association for acting as such unless approved by a Majority of the Owners.

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

Section 15. Executive Session. The Board may adjourn a meeting and reconvene in executive session to discuss and vote upon personnel matters, litigation in which the Association is or may become involved, and orders of business of a similar nature. The nature of any and all business to be considered in executive session shall first be announced in open session.

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

Section 17. Telephonic Participation. One or more directors may participate in and vote during any regular or special meeting of the Board by telephone conference call or similar communication equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time, and those directors so participating shall be present at such meeting. Any such meeting at which a quorum participates shall constitute a regular meeting of the Board.

C. Powers and Duties.

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

- (a) preparation and adoption of an annual budget in which there shall be established the contribution of each Owner to the common expenses;
- (b) making assessments to defray the common expenses, establishing the means and methods of collecting such assessments, and establishing the period of the installment payments of the annual assessment;
- (c) providing for the operation, care, upkeep, and maintenance of all areas which are the maintenance responsibility of the Association;
- (d) designating, hiring, and dismissing the personnel necessary for the operation of the Association and, where appropriate, providing for the compensation of such personnel and for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and material to be used by such personnel in the performance of their duties;
- (e) collecting the assessments, depositing the proceeds thereof in a bank depository which it shall approve, and using the proceeds to administer the Association;
- (f) making and amending use restrictions and rules and regulations;
- (g) opening of bank accounts on behalf of the Association and designating the signatories required;
- (h) enforcing by legal means the provisions of the Declaration, these By-Laws, and the rules and regulations adopted by it, and bring any proceedings which may be instituted on behalf of or against the Owners concerning the Association;
- (i) obtaining and carrying insurance against casualties and liabilities, as provided in the Declaration, and paying the

premium cost thereof;

(j) paying the costs of all services rendered to the Association or its members which are not directly chargeable to Owners;

(k) keeping books with detailed accounts of the receipts and expenditures affecting the association and its administration, and specifying the maintenance and repair expenses and any other expenses incurred; and

(l) contracting with any Person for the performance of various duties and functions. The Board shall have the power to enter into common management agreements with trusts, condominiums, or other associations. Any and all functions of the Association shall be fully transferable by the Board, in whole or in part, to any other entity.

Section 19. Management Agent. The board of Directors may employ for the association a professional management agent or agents at a compensation established by the Board of Directors to perform such duties and services as the Board of Directors shall authorize. The Declarant or an affiliate of the Declarant may be employed as managing agent or manager. The term of any management agreement shall not exceed one (1) year and shall be subject to termination by either party, without cause and without penalty, upon ninety (90) days written notice.

Section 20. Borrowing. The Board of Directors shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of repair or restoration of the Common Property and facilities without the approval of the members of the Association; provided, however, the board shall obtain membership approval in the same manner as for special assessments, in the event that the proposed borrowing is for the purpose of modifying, improving, or adding amenities, and the total amount of such borrowing exceeds or would exceed Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars outstanding debt at any one time.

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

(a) **Notice.** Written notice shall be served upon the violator specifying:

(i) The nature of the violation and the fine imposed;

(ii) that the violator may, within ten (10) days from the date of the notice, request a hearing regarding the fine imposed;

(iii) the name, address, and telephone number of a person to contact to challenge the fine;

(iv) that any statements, evidence, and witnesses may be produced by the violator at the hearing; and

(v) that all rights to have the fine reconsidered are waived if a hearing is not requested within ten (10) days of the date of the notice.

(b) **Hearing.** If a hearing is requested, it shall be held before the board in executive session, and the violator shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The minutes of the meeting shall contain a written statement of the results of the hearing.

Article IV Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. All officers shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Election, Term of Office, and Vacancies. Except during the period in which the Declarant has the right to appoint the officers of the Association under Article III, Section 2 of these By-Laws, the officers of the

Association shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following each annual meeting of the members. A Vacancy in any office arising because of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 3. Removal. Any officer may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the Association will be served thereby.

Section 4. President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the association and shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors. The President shall have all the general powers and duties which are incident to the office of the president of a corporation organized under the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Code.

Section 5. Vice President. The Vice President shall act in the President's absence and shall have all powers, duties, and responsibilities provided for the President when so acting.

Section 6. Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors and shall have charge of such books and papers as the Board of Directors may direct and shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of the secretary/treasurer of a corporation organized in accordance with Alabama law. The Secretary/Treasurer shall have the responsibility for the Association's funds and securities and shall be responsible for keeping full and accurate financial records and books of account showing all receipts and disbursements, for preparing all required financial statements and tax returns, and for the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects in the name of the Association or the managing agent in such depositories as may from time to time be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Resignation. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors, the President, or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Article V Committees

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

Article VI Miscellaneous

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

Section 2. Parliamentary Rules. Roberts Rules of Order (current edition) shall govern the conduct of all Association proceedings, when not in conflict with Alabama law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Declaration, these By-Laws, or a ruling made by the Person presiding over the proceeding.

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

Section 4. Amendment. The provisions of the Declaration applicable to amendment of that instrument shall apply to any amendment to these By-Laws; provided, however, that VA and HUD shall have the right to veto amendments

to these By-Laws for as long as the Declarant has the right to appoint directors and officers of the Association under Article III, Section 2 of these By-Laws.

STATE OF ALA. MADISON CO
COUNTY THIS INSTRUMENT
WAS FILED ON

96 MAY 21 AM 9:02

RECORDED & 116 TAX
& \$ DEED TAX HAS BEEN
PD. ON THIS INSTRUMENT

Shawle K. R. R. R.
JUDGE OF PROBATE