



Dana DeBeauvoir

Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk
Travis County, Texas

Oct 13, 2021 12:33 PM Fee: \$54.00

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Electronically Recorded

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE WOODLANDS OF AUSTIN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR
THE EXERCISE OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW AUTHORITY
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 209 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE**

The undersigned, Stephen McElroy, as the duly elected, qualified, and acting Board Member of The Woodlands of Austin Homeowners Association, Inc., a Texas nonprofit corporation (the "Association"), hereby certifies on behalf of the Association that the following resolutions were duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association (the "Board") at a meeting of the Board held on October 7, 2021, and that such preamble and resolutions have not been amended or rescinded and are in full force and effect on the date hereof.

WHEREAS, the Association is a property owners association governed by Chapter 209 of the Texas Property Code and is vested with the authority to enforce restrictive covenants and other terms and provisions of that certain Amended and Restated Declaration of Restrictions, Covenants, and Conditions for the Woodlands Homeowners' Association, recorded as Document Number 2018175912 in the Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas; as may be amended from time to time (collectively, the "Declaration").

WHEREAS, Chapter 209 of the Texas Property Code imposes certain procedures for the denial of a property owner's application for architectural review of proposed construction or modification of an improvement and establishes procedures for appealing a denial of an application for architectural review to the Association's Board of Directors

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt procedures and guidelines for conducting architectural review of a property owner's application for proposed construction or modification of an improvement in compliance with Chapter 209 of the Texas Property Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby adopts the procedures and guidelines set forth on Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

BE IT RESOLVED, FURTHER, that, the Board Member of the Association is hereby authorized and empowered, in the name and on behalf of the Association, from time to time to do and perform all such further acts and things and to execute and deliver all such further instruments as he or she may deem necessary or advisable to carry out and effectuate the intent and purposes of the foregoing resolutions and of the actions referred to therein.

BE IT RESOLVED, FURTHER, that any actions taken by the officers or directors of the Association prior to the date of this action or hereafter that are within the authority conferred hereby are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved as the act and deed of the Association.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Certificate as Board Member on behalf of the Association to be effective upon the recording of this document in the Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas.

Stephen McElroy

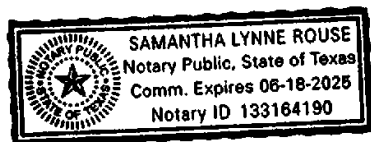
By: Stephen McElroy
Title: Board Member

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on October 12 2021, by Stephen McElroy, Board Member of The Woodlands of Austin Homeowners Association, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation.

Samantha Lynne Rouse
Notary Public Signature



AFTER RECORDING PLEASE RETURN TO:

Gregory S. Cagle
CAGLE PUGH, LTD. LLP
4301 Westbank Drive, Ste. A-150
Austin, Texas 78746

EXHIBIT A

THE WOODLANDS OF AUSTIN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR
THE EXERCISE OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW AUTHORITY
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 209 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE**

ARTICLE I

Introduction

The architectural review of applications for construction or modification of improvements is a vital task for ensuring that improvements constructed in the The Woodlands of Austin Homeowners Association, Inc. community (the "Community") are in compliance with the terms and provisions of the governing documents applicable to the community. Such task commonly involves a high degree of discretionary determinations, which may be scrutinized or disagreed with by others after the fact. In order to provide greater transparency and procedures for redress when property owners disagree with architectural review decisions concerning their property, the Texas legislature enacted Section 209.00505 of the Texas Property Code, which imposes new procedures for the denial of a property owner's application for architectural review and establishes procedures for appealing a denial of an application for architectural review to the property owners association's board of directors.

These procedures and guidelines are intended to assist the Environmental Control Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Architectural Committee") in the review and approval or denial of an application for architectural review of proposed construction or modification of an improvement and, if applicable, the appellate review of a denied application (the "Guidelines"). The Guidelines have been prepared by the Cagle Pugh law firm specifically for the Architectural Committee and the Board of Directors (the "Board") of The Woodlands of Austin Homeowners Association, Inc., (the "Association") and are based on that certain Amended and Restated Declaration of Restrictions, Covenants, and Conditions for the Woodlands Homeowners' Association, recorded as Document Number 2018175912 in the Official Public Records of Travis County, Texas, as amended from time to time (collectively, the "Declaration").

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of the Architectural Committee is to serve as a "gate-keeping" function for the construction of Improvements in a development. In most Declarations, Homeowners are required to submit an application for the construction of new Improvements or the modification of existing Improvements to the Architectural Committee for its review in advance of initiating construction, and the Architectural Committee is vested with exclusive discretion to determine whether such proposed construction of new Improvements or modification of existing Improvements is in compliance with the Restrictive Covenants applicable to the community. Often such task also involves a subjective determination as to whether the proposed construction is aesthetically attractive and harmonious with the other structures in the community. The authority to review and approve construction of new Improvements and/or modifications to existing Improvements is generally referred to as the "Architectural Review Authority."

EXHIBIT A

**ARTICLE III
Improvements Requiring Approval of the Architectural Committee**

The necessity of obtaining approval from an architectural committee is derived from a land-use restriction contained in the dedicatory instruments applicable to the community. Such land-use restriction will often restrict property owners from constructing or modifying certain improvements, buildings and/or structures without the advance written approval of the architectural committee. The scope of items requiring approval of the architectural committee is specified by the dedicatory instruments applicable to the community.

The Declaration for the Community provides that no "improvement" (as such term is hereinafter defined) may be made on any Lot without the prior approval of the Environmental Control Committee (Article X, Section 1). The term "improvement" shall include but shall not be limited to the erection of any structure, including but not limited to additions to or alterations of any buildings, detached buildings, storage buildings, tool sheds, kennels, or other buildings for the care of animals, and greenhouses; the erection of any fence; the moving of any structure from another locality to a Lot; the grading, scraping, excavation or other rearranging of the surface of any Lot; the construction of any driveway, alleyway, walkway, entryway, patio or other similar item; the alteration or replacement of any exterior surface, including the repainting of any painted surfaces and the painting of formerly unpainted surfaces; and the planting, replanting or rearrangement of any plant life visible at eye level from another Lot, the Common Area, or any public street.

In addition, the Declaration requires the following items to be submitted to and approved by the Architectural Committee:

1. antennas, satellite dishes and signals (Article VIII, Section 6);
2. rain water harvesting devices, storage containers, related plumbing (Article VIII, Section 28);
3. solar energy devices (Article VIII, Section 29);
4. standby electric generators (Article VIII, Section 30); and
5. drought-resistant landscaping and/or water-conserving natural turf (Article VIII, Section 32).

**ARTICLE IV
Scope of Architectural Review Authority**

The authority of the Architectural Committee to approve or deny a property owner's application to construct or modify an improvement is not without limitation. In a 1981 case law opinion, entitled *Davis v. Huey*, the Texas Supreme Court held that dedicatory instrument provisions requiring the submission of plans to and prior consent of an architectural committee before construction of improvements are valid "insofar as they furnish adequate notice to the homeowners of the specific restriction sought to be enforced" and that an architectural committee may not impose building restrictions upon homeowners that are more stringent than those specifically set out in the dedicatory instruments through its discretionary authority to disapprove proposed construction projects. In other words, even if a dedicatory instrument vests an architectural committee with discretionary approval authority, the architectural committee is not permitted to alter or expand the specific building restrictions or to impose limitations on a property owner's construction or remodeling project that are more restrictive

EXHIBIT A

than the specific restrictions set out elsewhere in the dedicatory instrument. Thus, the scope of an architectural committee's review of an application for proposed construction or modification of an improvement is generally dictated by the express provisions of the dedicatory instrument establishing such committee, and an architectural committee may not exercise architectural review authority over characteristics of a proposed improvement that is not expressly within such scope of review.

The permitted scope of Architectural Review Authority by the Architectural Committee established by the Declaration is as follows:

1. environmental and architectural harmony of the propose Improvement with the other Improvements in the Community (Article X, Section 1); and
2. compliance of the proposed Improvement with the restrictive covenants set forth within Article VIII of the Declaration (Article X, Section 2).

ARTICLE V Variance Authority

It is very common for a dedicatory instrument to vest an architectural committee with the power to grant a property owner a variance from compliance with one or more of the land-use restrictions in the dedicatory instrument regarding construction or modification of an improvement. When such variance authority is granted to an architectural committee it may be limited to certain types of land-use restrictions or the architectural committee may be restricted from granting a variance except in limited circumstances where the architectural committee determines there is good cause or justification for allowing the deviation and such variance will not have an adverse impact on the community.

The Declaration does not grant the Architectural Committee the authority to grant variances (Article XII, Section 1).

ARTICLE VI Time Period for Review

The Declaration provides that the Architectural Committee must meet with the requesting property owner (or his or her representative) within fifteen (15) days after an application for architectural review has been submitted to the Architectural Committee and Architectural Committee must render its decision and communicate such decision to the requesting property owner (or his or her representative) within thirty (30) days from such meeting. It is very important that the Architectural Committee comply with this deadline as the failure to do so will result in an approval of the application by default.

If the Architectural Committee does not have sufficient information from the requesting property owner to be able to approve an application within the specified time period to do so, the Architectural Committee should deny the application for such reason before the explanation of the deadline, request the additional information needed to perform a review of the application, and inform the requesting property owner that the application will be reconsidered by the Architectural Committee upon receipt of the requested information.

ARTICLE VII Denial of an Application

Section 209.00505 of the Texas Property Code requires all denials of an application for construction or modification of an improvement to be in writing and delivered to the requesting property

EXHIBIT A

owner by certified mail, hand-delivery, or electronic delivery. The written denial must also (1) describe the basis for the denial in reasonable detail and changes, if any, to the application or improvements required as a condition to approval; and (2) inform the property owner that he or she may request a hearing with the board of directors for the purpose of appealing the denial by the architectural committee on or before the 30th day after the date the written denial is mailed, hand-delivered or electronically delivered to the property owner.

Based on the permitted scope of Architectural Review Authority described above, an application may be denied by the Architectural Committee for one (1) or more of the following reasons:

1. The proposed Improvement lacks environmental and/or architectural harmony with other Improvements in the Community; or
2. The proposed Improvement fails to comply with the restrictive covenants in Article VIII of the Declaration.

A template letter for denial of an application that conforms to the Architectural Committee's scope of Architectural Review Authority under the Declaration and complies with the requirements of Section 209.00505 of the Texas Property Code is attached hereto as Exhibit A-1 and the Architectural Committee is strongly encouraged to use such template when denying a property owner's application for architectural review. The denial of an application letter should state all applicable reasons for the denial.

ARTICLE VIII Appellate Review by the Board

If a request for an appellate review hearing is timely received from a property owner, the Board must conduct an appellate review hearing not later than the 30th day after the date the Board receives the property owner's request and the Board must provide the property owner notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing not later than the 10th day before the date of the hearing.

During an appellate review hearing, the Board, or a designated representative of the Association, and the owner, or his or her designated representative, will each be provided the opportunity to discuss, verify facts, and resolve the denial of the property owner's application or request for the construction or modification of an improvement, and the changes, if any, requested by the architectural committee in the written denial provided to the property owner.

The Board or the property owner may request a postponement of the scheduled hearing. If requested, a postponement shall be granted for a period of not more than 10 days. Subsequent postponements may be granted by agreement of the parties. The Association and/or the property owner may make an audio recording of the appellate review hearing.

The Board is authorized to affirm, modify, or reverse, in whole or in part, any decision of the Architectural Committee concerning an application for construction of an improvement, as consistent with the Declaration. In other words, the Board is limited to the same scope of architectural review as the Architectural Committee.

EXHIBIT A-1

THE WOODLANDS OF AUSTIN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

_____, 2021

[Insert Owner Name]

Via Certified Mail, Hand-Delivery, and/or Electronic Delivery

RE: Denial of application for construction or modification of improvement at _____ submitted to the Environmental Control Committee (the "Committee") on _____, 2021 (the "Application")

Dear [insert owner name]:

Thank you for your submission of the Application. The Committee has denied the Application for the following reasons:

- The proposed Improvement lacks environmental and/or architectural harmony with other Improvements in the development;
- The proposed Improvement fails to comply with the restrictive covenants in Article VIII of the Declaration.
- The submitted Application failed to include information required by the applicable dedicatory instrument and/or requested by the Committee. Please provided the required/requested information and the Committee will reconsider the Application
- Other: _____

[if applicable – add the following provision]

Notwithstanding the denial above, the Committee shall reconsider its denial and approve the Application on the following conditions:

Pursuant to Section 209.00505 of the Texas Property Code, you may request an appellate review hearing with the Board of Directors of The Woodlands of Austin Homeowners Association, Inc., (the "Board"). A request for an appellate review hearing must be delivered to the Board on or before the 30th day from the date this notice was transmitted to you at the following mailing and/or email address:

EXHIBIT A-1

Sincerely,

[insert name]

[insert title]