

REGISTRATION BEFORE COUNTY COMMITTEE

Committee Name: _____ Your Name: Anissa Fellenz

DATE of Meeting: 6-10-26 Municipality You Reside in: Dane

Petition/CUP #/Resolution/Ordinance Amendment/Subject: _____

Wish to Speak in Support

Wish to Speak in Opposition

Wish to Register in Support

Wish to Register in Opposition

Available for Information Only

1. On this occasion, are you officially representing an organization or a person other than yourself?

YES

NO

(If you checked "NO" **STOP**; you do not need to complete the rest of the form. If you checked "YES" go to the next question.)

Name, address and telephone number of each person or organization you are representing:

COMMENTS:

2. Are you being paid for your representation or appearing incidental to your other paid duties for this person or organization? YES NO

(If you checked "NO" to the question, **STOP**; you do not need to complete the rest of this form. If you checked "YES", go to the next question.)

3. Are you an elected official who is appearing solely on behalf of your office or for your municipality or other governmental body? YES NO

(If you checked "NO" to the question, **STOP**; you do not need to complete the rest of this form. If you checked "YES", go to the next question.)

4. Has or will the person or organization you represent spend more than \$500 on county lobbying activities during the current reporting period? YES NO

(A reporting period is January to June, or July to December.)

5. Do you anticipate making more than two contacts with the County Board supervisors other than at public hearings or meetings? YES NO

(Do not count contacts with the County Board supervisor who represents the district in which you reside.)

(If you checked "NO" to questions 4 and 5 above, **STOP**; you do not need to complete the rest of this form. However, if you do make more than 2 contacts at a later date, you must then contact the County Clerk's office to file a form indicating such activity. If you checked "YES" to either question, please continue to the question below. You must also sign this form.)

6. If you answered "YES" to question 5, do you understand that if the person or organization you represent spends more than \$500 during the current reporting period, you must file a financial disclosure statement

with the County Clerk? YES NO

(If you checked "NO" please call the County Clerk at 266-4121 or go to the Clerk's office at 210 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., Room 106A for more information.)

Date: 6-10-26 Signature: 

Printed Name: Anissa Fellenz

Anissa
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Good evening,

I am here tonight because Dane County is considering an increase in ^{dog} park tag fees. Before asking residents to pay more, I believe the County must first demonstrate that the revenue currently collected is being managed in a way that truly benefits both our parks and the people who use them.

I have ^{and dogs} repeatedly ^{previously} raised concerns regarding the management of our dog parks. We have seen native trees removed, natural understory vegetation cleared, extensive herbicide application, increased mowing, and fencing projects that sit unused while other areas remain inaccessible. Meanwhile, conditions that directly impact visitors' safety and enjoyment continue to go unaddressed.

When I previously expressed concerns about how these actions negatively affect dogs and their owners, I was told that "Dane County Parks does not manage parkland for one user group." If that is the County's position, then I must ask: why are certain groups singled out to pay a separate fee for access? If the County does not intend to manage these spaces with their primary users in mind, what exactly are these fees paying for?

The logic is entirely inconsistent. We do not charge parents a separate fee for every child who uses a county playground. Yet, dog owners—along with other specific groups—are expected to absorb fee increases while being told their concerns are not a management priority.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the financial efficiency of current practices. The heavy reliance on herbicides, controlled burning, tree removal, and temporary fencing comes at a steep cost to taxpayers. Ironically, this management style has forced additional, costly mowing just to control the resulting overgrowth of poison ivy, wild parsnip, burdock, and stickweed. Before increasing fees, the County should explain how these expenditures improve the park experience and prove that they represent a responsible use of public funds.

Because of these ongoing issues, I—along with many others—have chosen to vote with our wallets. For the past few years, I have purchased my park tags from the city instead of the county. We live in a consumer-based economy; when Dane County routinely dismisses the feedback of paying users, it should not be surprised when participation declines.

I urge the Board to focus on accountability, transparency, and measurable benefits before asking residents to pay more. Park users deserve to know exactly where their money is going and how these expenditures improve the parks they are being asked to support.

Thank you.