

DCTA opposes annual CUP review fee in OA 23

The DCTA reviewed [OA 23](#), an Ordinance Amendment that would increase several zoning fees and create a \$55 annual review fee for Conditional Use Permits (CUPs), at its 10/20/10 Membership Meeting.

The DCTA membership voted unanimously to oppose the proposed annual \$55 fee for CUPs.

Issues noted related to the proposed fee include:

- The fee would be retroactive - meaning landowners currently holding CUPs would have to pay an annual fee or lose their CUP status.
- The OA change would significantly alter how the county does business. The county currently operates on a "complaint driven" system. This new review process would change department practice to an annual inspection system.
- This attempt at an annual fee is just setting the stage for annual increases and new ways for the zoning department to generate revenue. \$55 will not begin to cover the cost of a new database, landowner notification, fee processing and inspections.
- The Chapter 10 Task Force and recent ordinance amendments have been moving several landuses to CUPs not intending it as a way to raise revenue.
- The county does not have the authority to create a retroactive annual fee.
- Some CUPs are for single family homes in A1-Ex Ag. There is no need to annually inspect a homesite. If we start down that path we will be charging for inspections on all homes in Dane County.
- If land divisions are down and the economy is down, the zoning department should have all kinds of time to catch up on CUP paperwork. If the department is creating new work and fees to keep people working, we're better off to cut staff.