



Amending MCGO Chapter 13 – Guidelines for County Departments Establishing Partnerships with Support Groups

Parks Committee
July 14, 2026

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Background:

Support Groups play an important role in the success of Milwaukee County Parks and other County departments. Support Groups provide financial and in-kind contributions that allow county departments to accomplish more than tax revenue alone can fund.

This ordinance updates and clarifies Milwaukee County's policies governing relationships with nonprofit "Friends Groups," now consistently referred to as "Support Groups". The revisions establish a uniform, transparent, and enforceable framework for how County departments may partner with nonprofit entities that provide ongoing financial, programmatic, or in-kind support.

Amending MCGO Chapter 13



	Original	Amended
Policy (Section 13.01)	Focused on “Friends Groups”	Broadened to “Support Groups” and adds clear distinction between county and Support Groups
Agreement Requirements (Section 13.07)	No Agreement needed for fundraising; some agreement clauses	Agreement required with several mandated clauses
Financial Reporting (Sections 13.07 and 13.08)	County reporting requirements tied to thresholds for audits \$4K/\$25K/\$50K (not fair for smaller Friends Groups with limited financial capacity)	Aligns with WI Statute 202.12 and IRS Form 990
New Section 13.08 - Contribution Acceptance and Management	--	Adds framework for managing Support Group contributions, including a separate agreement requirement for capital donations of \$10,000 or more

Questions / Discussion



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