

Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council

Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, 1/13/22, 1 pm

Link to join:

<https://fox.zoom.us/j/95659872090?pwd=Q3VYZHI4WVVYMPFQjh4aXZqQnpWQT09>

Meeting ID: 956 5987 2090

Password: 484194

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Approval of minutes from 10/7/21 meeting
3. Treasurer's report – Drechsel

4. President's report
 - a) Council joins WNA, WBA and WKOW-TV in [filing a brief](#) opposing a motion asking that the court forbid live-streaming of the trial of a man who allegedly killed and dismembered his parents; motion was [substantially denied](#) but related issues arise at the trial.
 - b) Bob Wills Memorial, Council Legal Defense Fund (to be discussed below).
 - c) Opees? Sunshine Week is March 13-19; will seek nominees for Citizen, Public and Media Openness Advocates, Public Records Scoop, Whistleblower of the Year and No Friend of Openness awards. d) Favor to ask.

5. Council membership. No changes.

6. Legislative update: The WNA has initiated a piece of legislation designed to encourage advertising in local media that is incentivized by an advertiser tax credit.

7. Legal update: Case involving WMC set for oral argument before the state Supreme Court on February 14, 9:45. Supreme Court ruling in [Friends of Frame Park](#) case remains pending. Appeals court [issues](#) precedent-setting decision on Oct. 12 against Milwaukee County sheriff's deputy seeking to block the release of records regarding an incident where he ran a red light and caused a fatality. Judge [questions](#) the small volume of records provided by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos regarding his hiring of former Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman to probe the 2020 election. Oshkosh school district is [accused](#) of violating open meetings law for meeting privately before postponing open meeting with maskless attendees; DA [declines](#) to prosecute.

Madison East High parents [sue](#) over the school district's failure to release records on locker room cameras. Motion hearing on district's motion to quash [set for](#) Jan. 6. Midwest Environmental Advocates [sues](#) DNR and Natural Resources Board over withheld records of communications; a status conference is [set](#) for Jan. 19. Friends of Blue Mound State Park also [sue](#) the DNR, in part over alleged records violations; that case is moved to [federal court](#) at the DNR's request.

From Tom Kamenick: La Crosse PD [sued](#) after blanket denial of request, citing "internal disciplinary"; turns over records. Court of Appeals [reverses](#) dismissal of case seeking withheld applications & redacted information from applications for open school board position. Court rules Mequon-Thiensville School

District [ordered](#) to turn over the email distribution list it used to invite parents to a presentation on CRT; the district appealed after taking an informal survey asking what its litigation strategy should be. Marinette Common Council member [files](#) open meetings lawsuit against the city and his fellow alderpersons, alleging violations of the open meetings law. Briefing has completed in the Court of Appeals. in WSJ v. Blazel case (filed by numerous media outlets & Jonathan Anderson seeking records of the legislative investigation into former Rep. Staush Gruszynski's sexual harassment of a staffer). Decision might be 6-9 months out. WTP sues Kenosha County DA's office after blanket refusal to release disciplinary records of two employees. WTP sues Lafayette County seeking preliminary reports prepared by an outside agency and a property assessment report. WTP sues City of Glendale for redacting information off a liquor license application despite the existence of a statute providing an absolute right of access to such records.

8. Issue for discussion: medical examiner's fees. Charges for autopsy reports and other records from medical examiners vary widely and, in some cases, continue to be excessive. OOG sent a [letter about this issue](#) in January 2020 (click link or view letter in packet), but these charges are still widespread. Can OOG issue an advisory?

9. Issue for discussion: Need for more resources (read: funding) to handle records requests, at both the state and local levels.

10.. Legal Defense Fund. Review project description and application form. Discuss potential funding strategies. Possible infusion from the Milwaukee Press Club's Bob Wills Memorial Fund.

11. Other issues: Green Bay police [gave legislator](#) advance notice of its intention to release police records regarding allegations of child abuse from *before* he became a public official. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel [highlights secrecy](#) from both parties regarding legislative redistricting. Portage County DA asks attorney general whether it's legal for Stevens Point school board to meet online only. Town of Laurence in Brown County negotiates in secret with mega-warehouse (possibly Amazon). Menominee City Council [opts not to talk](#) to attorney over marijuana-retailer lawsuit after being advised it should be done in open session. Lueders [sounds off](#) on secrecy regarding Madison police supervisor.

12. Web site – Foust

13. Your Right to Know: Need offerings for February, March, and April

14: Other business including next meeting date: Thursday, April 7, 14 and 21.

15. Adjourn.