

## **Meeting Room Policy**

*Adopted December 2020*

The Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library (“Library”) provides access to resources supporting the informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs and interests of its constituents in a financially responsible manner. Within this framework, the Library offers meeting room space on a fair and equitable basis in accordance with this policy.

Use of Library meeting rooms by any group or individual signifies acceptance of and intent to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this policy.

### **A. Eligibility and Fees**

Businesses, residents, and organizations within Guilford Township engaged in advocacy, social services or whose activities are of a charitable, civic, commercial, cultural, educational, governmental, intellectual, political, or religious nature are eligible to use the meeting rooms free of charge.

Local, county, state, and federal government agencies, officials, or contracted parties who serve or represent Guilford Township and its residents may use the meeting rooms free of charge.

Businesses, individuals, and organizations who reside outside of or who do not have a physical location within Guilford Township may access the meeting rooms for a fee of \$50 per use.

Meeting rooms may not be used for parties, receptions, or supervised visits.

### **B. General Guidelines**

Library programs, activities, and related events have priority over all other meeting room uses.

Meeting rooms are available during normal operating hours. Meeting room users will not be permitted entry into the building outside of operating hours. Specific exception to this clause is made for election officials, poll workers, and voters when the Library serves as a polling location during general and primary elections.

Meetings rooms may not be scheduled for days when the Library is closed.

Meeting room users must ensure that any outside equipment or technology intended for use in the meeting room is compatible with the existing technical and audiovisual capabilities present in the meeting rooms.

Use of the meeting rooms must not disrupt or disturb others in the Library. The Library reserves the right to immediately terminate meetings that cause disruption or disturbance.

Meeting room users must vacate the meeting rooms at least ten (10) minutes prior to the Library closing. Meeting room users whose meeting runs past closing time or who otherwise fail to vacate the building on time may have their meeting room privileges suspended or terminated.

Permission to meet at the Library does not, in any way, represent or imply approval or endorsement by the Library, its staff, or the Library Board of Trustees of a particular group or individual, their point of view, or the thoughts, ideas and opinions expressed during the meeting.

The Library is a public institution supported by taxpayer funds. In general, meetings must be free and open to the public at large. In practical terms, this means that anyone from the general public may attend any meeting held in a Library meeting room at any time. Meeting room users may not bar, restrict or otherwise prevent access to members of the general public. Conversely, members of the general public may not disrupt or disturb meeting room users and must comply with all Library policies, procedures, guidelines, and rules. Specific exception to this clause is made for users participating in certain legal proceedings (i.e. depositions) and for users engaged in test proctoring.

No meeting room user may charge admission nor may they solicit or collect a "free will" offering, nor may they present for sale any item which is conditional for attendance.

Except for the Friends of the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library, no group or individual may use the name of the Library, its address or telephone number as either their contact information or their headquarter location.

The Library will not create, prepare, or disseminate any publicity, marketing, or advertising materials for meeting room users.

Meetings will be cancelled if the Library is closed for weather or any other emergency. Meeting room users will not be directly notified in the event of an emergency closure. Weather related closures are announced through broadcast and social media in addition to the Library's website. Other closures may only be announced by signage posted at the main entrance.

Meeting room assignments will be made and may be changed, without notice, at the discretion of Library staff.

Minors must not be left in meeting room spaces unattended.

Caregivers or parents using the meeting room spaces must directly supervise children eight (8) years of age or younger at all times.

The Library does not provide storage for any equipment, materials, or supplies used by meeting room users.

## **C. Reservations**

Reservations must be made by an adult of at least eighteen (18) years of age. This individual will be responsible for the group using the meeting room and will be held financially accountable for any resulting loss or damage.

Reservations must be made at least twenty four (24) hours in advance, but not more than ninety (90) days in advance. Reservations are considered on a first come, first served basis.

Meeting room users are solely responsible for submitting their requests in a timely manner. The Library will not retain lists of future bookings for later inclusion in the booking system.

The Library does not offer standing reservations to meeting room users.

Meeting room requests may be made in person, over the phone, on the Library's website, or via email through the [rooms@plainfieldlibrary.net](mailto:rooms@plainfieldlibrary.net) email address.

Meeting room requests by individuals who are not Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library resident cardholders must complete an online agreement form acknowledging acceptance of the terms and conditions for use of the Library meeting room space. Reservation requests will not be confirmed until the online agreement has been properly executed and received.

For reservations where payment is due, the reservation will not be confirmed until payment has been received.

The Library reserves the right to impose limits on the number and frequency of meeting room reservations. Any meeting room reservation that would unduly limit, restrict, monopolize, or otherwise prevent equitable access to other meeting room users is strictly prohibited.

Meeting room users must provide a notice of cancellation no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Failure to provide proper notice may result in the cancellation or denial of future bookings.

Meeting room reservations are non-transferable; any meeting room users who engage in this practice will have their meeting room privileges revoked.

## **D. Care and Use of Facilities**

The Library does not provide staff to assist meeting room users with room set up or clean up.

Meeting room users may not attach items to interior or exterior surfaces throughout the Library.

Meeting room users assume full responsibility and may be financially accountable for any damages or losses incurred resulting from the use of the meeting rooms. Abuse of the facilities will be sufficient cause to deny further use of meeting room spaces.

The Library is not responsible for the safety and security of personal items.

Light refreshments, including beverages, snacks, and boxed or bag lunches may be served. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

Users are responsible for cleaning up after their meetings and properly disposing of trash.

Meeting rooms must be left as they are found. If furniture is rearranged, it must be returned to the default arrangement as indicated on the posted diagram in each room.

The use of tobacco products, including vaping devices, is not permitted.

### **E. Room Capacity**

Meeting room users must adhere to the posted maximum occupancy limits of each room and are responsible for enforcing occupancy limits for their meetings. The Library reserves the right to terminate meetings where posted occupancy limits are exceeded and may suspend or terminate meeting room privileges for the groups who exceed posted limits.

<b>Lobby Conference</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>McMillan A</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>McMillan B</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>McMillan (A &amp; B combined)</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>46</b>

### **F. Indemnification Clause**

Meeting room users agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library, its agents, employees, Board of Trustees, and other representatives, from any and all suits, actions, claims or demands of any character or nature arising out of or brought on account of any injuries or damages sustained by any person as a consequence or result of the use of the library facility, its meeting rooms, furnishing, or equipment.

Meeting room users may be required to sign additional waivers and releases as a condition of using the meeting room space. This will be determined on a case by case basis.

### **G. Appeals**

Meeting room decisions may be appealed, in writing, to the Library Director within ten (10) days of the disputed action. The Library Director will issue a final determination, in writing, within a reasonable amount of time not to exceed thirty (30) days.