



Meeting Spaces

Policy Number: LS 536

Effective: August 2018

Purpose

The library's meeting spaces are intended to be used for library related functions. The library encourages other citizens and community group access to those rooms as part of a program of service to further the library's objectives. The library's objectives are to promote lifelong learning, enhance quality of life, encourage individual intellectual freedom, and broaden horizons for all Hillsborough County residents.

Policy

All use of meeting spaces must be free and open to the public. Meeting spaces may only be used by individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations that do not unlawfully discriminate in their membership practices. Persons, groups, corporations, or other legal entities engaging in any commercial activities or for-profit transactions may not utilize meeting spaces. (Exception: Individual and small group tutoring in support of K-12 education.)

Library staff may request proof of non-profit status and will follow up with appropriate local, state, or federal agencies for verification of this status. No sale of items, solicitation or selling of goods or services, or fund raising activities directed toward the public may take place in meeting rooms and/or community rooms unless the individual, community group, or non-profit organization is acting as a co-sponsor or partner for a library program, event or service. The library reserves the right to deny use to any group pursuant to this policy.

Meeting spaces are not available for private social gatherings (parties, weddings, bridal showers, baby showers, family reunions, graduation ceremonies, etc.) Use of facilities is governed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Policy, Section Number 08.01.00.01, Policy for Use of County-Owned Real Estate and Administrative Directive AD-08, Political Activity.

Use of meeting spaces shall have the following priority:

- Early voting or voting precinct locations coordinated in conjunction with the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Office which preempts all other uses.
- Library sponsored or co-sponsored programs.
- Organizations in partnership with the Library, including Friends of the Library, the Hillsborough Literacy Council, etc.
- Individuals, community groups, non-profit organizations, and other governmental agencies.

The individual completing the Application for Use of Library Meeting Rooms (Application) must have a current Hillsborough County library card in good standing with no outstanding fees. Those residents without a library card are encouraged to apply for one.

All persons attending must conform to guidelines set forth in the Library's Code of Conduct. The Library, the Board of County Commissioners, the Public Library Board, and the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc., neither endorse, approve, nor disapprove the aims, policies, viewpoints, or activities of groups utilizing meeting spaces. Individuals, community groups, and non-profit organizations may not reserve meeting spaces more than twice per month, nor more than three months in advance to ensure fair availability to all citizens. Walk-in requests for immediate use of meeting spaces are based on availability and compliance with this policy.

The Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Library features the Ada T. Payne Community Room. The size, scope, and nature of the events held in this room require particular operating procedures. Individuals, community groups, and non-profit organizations may reserve the Ada T. Payne Community Room up to six months in advance for special events and three months for regular activities. This advance time period reflects the possible planning requirements for events held in this space and ensures equitable access for all citizens. Use of the special features of this room, including the catering kitchen, sound and lighting systems, are self-service. Meetings generally are scheduled to take place within regular library hours of operation. Events or meetings being held in the Ada T. Payne Community Room are to end no later than 6 pm. Requests for use of the room later than 6 pm require approval by the Regional Manager. Requests for use of the room later than 9 p.m. require approval by the Library Director.

Meeting spaces must be left in the same condition and arrangement in which they were found prior to usage. Responsibility for any damage to property or loss of library

equipment must be assumed by the individual, community group, or non-profit organization using the room. Accidents are to be immediately reported to library staff.

Library staff may attend or observe any meeting or any program at any time. The name, address, and/or phone number of any library may not be used as the address or headquarters of any group. No individual, community group, or non-profit organization may imply library sponsorship agreement without prior approval, and such approval shall be in writing and in accordance with library policy. The individual, community group, or non-profit organization using the meeting space is responsible for its own publicity unless the library has a formal sponsored or co-sponsored agreement and it is outlined therein.

Procedure

Individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations wishing to reserve meeting space must submit a completed application with sufficient processing time, usually two to three business days. Last minute requests will be considered on an individual basis and handled appropriately. Individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations wishing to reserve meeting space outside of the operating hours must complete and submit an After Hours Addendum at least one month prior to use. Groups approved for after-hours use must abide by the following procedures:

- Groups must arrange to pick up a key, alarm code and any pertinent instructions to the building at least 24 hours prior to their scheduled meeting.
- Only the person who reserved the room may pick up the key unless arrangements are made ahead of time.
- Only those actively participating in the meeting or event are to be admitted into the building.
- All exterior doors must remain closed while the meeting or event is in progress. Doors should never be left propped open.
- At the conclusion of the meeting or event, ensure that everyone has left the building before closing.
- Set the building alarm, ensure the door(s) are locked, and return the key per branch instructions. Failure to follow these procedures could result in after-hours privileges being revoked.

Individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations wishing to use the catering kitchen in the Ada T. Payne Community Room for the warming and serving of food, will be assessed a non-refundable cleaning fee. Payment of the fee must be made prior to use of the room. Applicants should retain receipt for proof of payment. The Catering Kitchen Permission Addendum must be filled out at least one month in advance. All submitted

applications are reviewed prior to confirmation of a reservation. Individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations will be notified of the status of their application. Each application is generally kept on file for one year. The individual, community group, or non-profit organization is responsible for keeping its application current.

The library retains the right to cancel a meeting space reservation in the event of a scheduling conflict with a library activity or co-sponsored program, or if conditions arise that affect the safety, health, or operation of the facility. If the library needs to cancel a meeting space reservation, library staff will recommend alternatives for canceled reservations at other libraries where possible. Individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations holding reservations are requested to notify the library of any cancellation at the earliest possible date in order to free the meeting space for use by others. Failure to provide notice of cancellation on more than two occasions could result in denial of future use.

The Fire Marshal's maximum occupancy limits cannot be exceeded. Individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations must check in with library staff upon arrival for any meeting and provide them with an attendance count before departure. For meetings during regular library hours, allow staff sufficient time to close the building.

Refreshments other than dry snacks and beverages in covered containers are not permitted in a meeting room unless permission has been granted. Individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations wishing to bring refreshments must complete and submit a Food & Beverage Permission Addendum and will be assessed a non-refundable cleaning fee. Payment of the fee must be made prior to use of the room. Applicants should retain receipt for proof of payment. Failure to obtain an approved Food & Beverage Permission Addendum will result in a cleaning fee being assessed as well as possible denial of future use.

Serving or consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited unless prior application approval has been obtained from the Library Board per LS 534, Alcohol Use Policy. Storage space for equipment, supplies, materials, etc. belonging to individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations cannot be provided by the library. Sound amplification in a meeting space must not impede regular operations of the library. Copyrighted or commercially produced films, videos, and DVDs must have public performance rights in order to be viewed in a meeting room.

Meeting spaces are not available for the provision of any health care activities that include physical exams or the dispensation of medications including vaccinations other than as a

library or county program. Individuals, community groups, or non-profit organizations' activities may not adversely affect library operations. Anyone failing to follow the above use limitations are at risk of having their meeting space privileges revoked.