

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM SERVICES

Revised February 9, 2017

CONTACT - Meeting room services are coordinated by the Library Administration Office. Please call the office at 926-7696 for reservations and information.

ROOMS - The library currently has 3 general meeting areas available.

THOMAS LIBRARY MEETING ROOM- Capacity 30
HAGEMAN LIBRARY MEETING ROOM- Capacity 25
BAUGHER CENTER MEETING ROOM- Capacity 100

OPEN MEETINGS - All meetings must be free and open to the public. No closed meetings or secret sessions are allowed.

FEES - There is no basic charge for using the library's meeting rooms during regular library operating hours. Groups wishing to meet when the library buildings are closed will have to arrange to hire a library staff member authorized to open and close the building and supervise the meeting.

Groups may not charge an admission fee or collect donations in conjunction with the use of the library's meeting rooms.

Buying and selling products or services is not permitted except in support of the library. Groups wishing to conduct fund raising activities must receive the prior permission of the Library Board.

Groups may charge a reasonable fee for meals served during the meeting. Caterers may provide the meal, but they must coordinate their services with the library.

RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS - Groups requesting the use of the meeting rooms must contact the library's administrative office and complete a meeting room application form. Only adult resident patrons of the library district in good standing with the library may reserve meeting rooms.

Applications will be reviewed by the Director and if approved, the meeting will be scheduled. Reservations are normally handled on a first-come, first served basis except for standing reservations. Standing reservations for the year must be renewed annually before December 15, or the reservation may be lost. Standing reservations are normally limited to 1 meeting per week.

The library reserves the right to relocate, cancel or postpone meetings depending on room demand, availability, and group size.

The library must be notified as soon as possible about cancelled or postponed meetings.

KEYS – Keys will no longer be checked out to meeting room groups. Assigned library staff will be responsible for unlocking the doors for the meeting and locking the doors after the meeting.

Groups needing to gain access to the A/V closet must arrange in advance for the IT department to help with equipment setup by calling 926-7696.

SET UP - Groups are responsible for preparing the room arrangement for their meetings.

KITCHENETTES – Groups may use the library’s kitchen facilities to help prepare meals and refreshments but must provide their own foodstuffs, paper goods, and cleaning supplies. Dirty dishes should not be left in sinks. Coffee pots may be available but should be left clean. Groups must turn off all equipment after use.

CLEAN UP - All tables, chairs and all other furniture and equipment **must be returned to their original positions** at the conclusion of the meeting. Meeting areas must be free from litter and trash must be removed. Restrooms in the Baugher Center have to be locked. Groups may arrange for the use of library cleaning equipment in advance to insure the rooms are left clean.

SUPPLIES - Groups must provide all of their own supplies.

EQUIPMENT - Groups may arrange for the use of the library's audio visual equipment, including microphones, by calling the IT department at 926-7696 in advance and scheduling for setup.

STORAGE - Groups may be allowed to store equipment in the library as space permits. Groups must provide their own storage containers. The library assumes no responsibility for the possibility of lost or damaged stored material. Groups must be respectful of the equipment belonging to other groups. One group’s equipment may not block another group from gaining access to their own equipment.

INSURANCE - The library may require on a case by case basis, general liability insurance naming the library as an additional insured, retention of security personnel, or compensation for additional library staff to help supervise activities.

AFTERHOUR MEETINGS - Group meetings may only be scheduled to take place when the library is open to the public. The Thomas Bertha Wood Meeting Room may be reserved from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday; and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. The Baugher Center may be reserved from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday; and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. The Hageman Library Meeting Room may be reserved from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday; and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday (no Sunday hours). Groups must promptly exit the premises upon the conclusion of their scheduled meeting time.

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM POLICY

Revised February 9, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The buildings of Westchester Public Library (“Library”) contain meeting rooms to help fulfill the goals and objectives of the Library and to bring together the resources of the Library and the activities of our community.

The Library invites the public to make maximum use of its meeting rooms. To this end, meeting rooms shall be made available to any local group of citizens for the purpose of holding meetings or exhibits of a cultural, educational (including continuing professional education), intellectual, informational, civic, charitable, or entertaining nature, but not of a primarily private or commercial nature.

The administration of the Library shall (1) formulate specific procedures, forms, and requirements for the implementation of this policy consistent with the guidelines provided in this policy, and (2) provide day-to-day interpretations of this policy.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

Any use of the Library’s meeting rooms must conform to all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Financial and investment seminars are prohibited. Family events such as wedding and baby showers, and private parties are not allowed. No activity shall be permitted which shall in any manner be potentially destructive to the Library property or disruptive to activities of the Library or other groups using the Library. The use of alcohol shall not be permitted except at Library Board sponsored functions.

All activities **must be free and open to the public**. Open to the public means open to observation and does not automatically give a nonmember observer the right to be a participating member of a meeting room assembly, or the right to address the meeting group, or the right to disrupt the meeting proceeds in any manner. If a meeting room group provides meals or refreshments for its members, the group is not required to share its refreshments or meals with a nonmember.

Use of the Library’s meeting rooms shall require the specific permission of the Library. A requesting group must agree to comply with the rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the Library, including if requested, without limitation, (1) provision of general liability insurance naming the Library as additional insured, (2) compensation of Library staff who act as chaperones, and (3) retention of off-duty police for security.

The fact that a group is permitted to meet in the Library does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the group’s policies, beliefs, or activities.

PRIORITY

Library-sponsored activities shall always take precedence in scheduling meeting room use. Friends of the Library meetings and sales, and volunteer recognition and appreciation events are

considered to be library sponsored activities. Non-library groups shall be treated as equitably as possible within the constraints of popular demand, availability and size.

USE FEE

There shall not be a basic fee for the use of the Library's meeting rooms. However, expenses for janitorial services, losses, or repairs shall be the responsibility of the group causing the same.

ADMISSION FEE

Groups may not charge an admission fee or collect a donation in conjunction with the use of the Library's meeting rooms. Groups may collect nominal and reasonable dues from the membership and receive reimbursement from their members for actual meal costs.

Buying and selling of products or services is not permitted on the Library's property except in support of the Library. Groups wishing to conduct fund-raising activities for community or other purposes must receive the prior permission of the Director of the Library.

SUPERVISION

Meeting room reservations must be made by a member of the group who is also an adult resident patron of the library district in good standing with the library. Each group requesting use of the Library's meeting rooms shall designate one or more of its members to be directly responsible for the group's use. At a minimum, the designated person shall be responsible for (1) scheduling the meeting, (2) scheduling A/V assistance if necessary, (3) room setup and preparation, (4) meeting room, restroom and building security, (5) room clean-up, (6) insuring that all policies and procedures of the Library are followed, (6) restricting unauthorized attendees from entering the Library proper, (7) returning any borrowed equipment to the appropriate library department(s), and (8) acting as liaison with the Library administration.

Children and young adult groups are encouraged to use the Library's meeting rooms; however, they must be supervised by one or more adult sponsors if under the age of 18.

ABUSES AND APPEAL

Any breach of this policy may be cause for revoking, suspending, or limiting the use of the Library's meeting rooms by the offending group. Any denied group may re-apply for use of the Library's meeting rooms; provided that, the group shows that the conditions that caused the denial have been corrected.

Any denial of use may be appealed to the Director of the Library who will present the appeal to the Library's Board of Trustees.

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
200 West Indiana Ave.
Chesterton, IN 46304
219-926-7696

MEETING ROOM APPLICATION

Date _____

Name of Organization _____

Contact Name _____ Title/Office _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Purpose of Organization _____

Number Attending _____

Requested Date of Meeting _____ Time of Meeting _____

Room Desired:

Thomas Library

_____ Meeting Room (capacity 30)

Hageman Library

_____ Meeting Room (capacity 30)

Baughner Center

_____ Meeting Room (capacity 100)

Audio-visual equipment must be reserved in advance with the library's IT department.

Person reserving room must be an adult **resident** patron of the library district in good standing with the library.

Contact information will be provided to the public.

I agree to comply with the library's meeting room policies and procedures:

Signature _____ Date Approved _____