

Library to maintain meeting room policy

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Despite a recommendation from its insurance carrier that it tighten its meeting room policy, the Schaumburg Library Board of Trustees on Monday decided against making changes.

The suggestion comes in the wake of a federal lawsuit filed against the library district by white supremacist Matthew Hale , who said its refusal to provide meeting space for him violated his civil rights.

Hale filed the lawsuit several days after the board in March denied a request by a Hoffman Estates woman who wanted to use a room for a speech by Hale, leader of the World Church of the Creator of East Peoria.

In rejecting Hale's appearance, board members said that district has a meeting room policy that prohibits activities that could disrupt the library or threaten the safety of patrons.

However, in a May 9 letter, Jane Rowland, president of Library Insurance Management and Risk Control Combination in Burr Ridge, noted that without changes, similar lawsuits could be in the offing.

If it isn't prepared to rent rooms to any and all non-profit organizations, then Rowland urged the library to redraft its meeting policy to include "appropriate criteria for denying an application."

Board members decided that changing the library's meeting room policy in the midst of a lawsuit would not be in the district's best interest.

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