STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:
Staff and librarians from around the Black Hills attended Crisis Intervention Training on De-escalation presented by the Rapid City Police Department on April 19th.

Staff and patrons participated in a state-wide tornado drill on April 27th.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

BHAL Conference: The Black Hills Area Library Spring Conference was held on April 19. We had 34 attendees from libraries around the area. The conference was directed towards support staff and trustees. It covered Crisis Intervention Training, as well as KOHA training, questions, etc. Thanks to Amanda Jones for setting up the CIT training, and to Lisa DaSilva for patiently instructing the attendees in the use of KOHA and in answering all their questions.

Strategic Planning: Malcom Chapman’s firm met with us on April 18 to finalize the process and move it ahead. I expect you will all get an invitation to be a part of the process as we begin collecting data. The Mayor expressed interest in getting information from children and youth about the direction they would like to see the city go in. I suggested to him that we would see if we could combine that with our strategic planning process.

Rural America Initiatives Prenatal to Five Head Start Program: We met with Gena Pilcher in March to begin to develop a partnership to serve the needs of the (current) two sites of her Head Start program. We met with her again in April to clarify some issues we had with the MOU. Our questions have since been answered and we will be going forth with the MOU after it has been vetted by the legal department.

Budget Review: We met with Michael Howard to work on priorities for a continuing budget cycle. The City may not have Priority Driven Budgets completed for this year since the budget review is quickly coming up, but all departments will be working on preparing it for the 2018 budget cycle. The budgets will probably be going back and forth between the departments and consultants in Denver until we get used to the process. It will take a few months before that happens.
Children’s Librarian and Maker Space Supervisor: The Children’s Librarian and the Maker Space Supervisor positions both closed on April 15. The Children’s Librarian position had two internal applicants. We spent a lot of time interviewing the candidates and evaluating them, however it has been decided that we will be moving forward with looking at external candidates.

We had a number of candidates for the maker space manager position. We have spent a lot of time interviewing and evaluating them as well, and we will be bringing two in for an on-site interview/tour/evaluation this week.

Administrative and Facilities Coordinator: Kim’s position has been advertised and closed on April 29. We have two internal candidates and a good group of outside candidates that we will be looking at.

Maker Space: The RFP for the maker space went out two weeks ago. The bids will be opened at today’s meeting.

Maker Faire: We met this week with representatives of The Dahl to continue planning the second annual Maker Faire. Please save the date of Saturday, July 30. The Faire will go from 10am until 4 pm.

General Beadle School: We have been having increasing problems with unattended children at the General Beadle School. We met with the principle this month to discuss the issue and we will be implementing the same policy for unattended children at GB as we now have at downtown, i.e. no children under the age of nine can be left unattended at the library and anyone supervising another child must be 16 years of age or older.

New Library Logo: We have been working with Hot Pink Inc. to develop possible logos for the library (please see the two examples at the front of the room). We have narrowed the selection to two. Please vote for your favorite. We will be soliciting votes from the public as well.

Children’s Fair: We had a booth at the Children’s Fair, April 22-24 at the Civic Center. Thanks to all the staff members who staffed our booth. The Fair is always chaotic, always entertaining and exhausting, but I think all had a good time and the kids really loved our puppets. The staff handed out a lot of information on Summer Reading. Thanks particularly to Laurinda Tapper and the Outreach Department for their hard work.

Volunteer Appreciation Get-together: We had our first of three volunteer appreciation get-togethers on April 27 at 6:30. The weather was a little snowy, but everybody seemed to have a good time and most stayed right until the end. They socialized and played games and, of course, there was food. Thanks to those staff members who attended and let the volunteers win. Stephanie Jenner did a wonderful job. Thank you to all our volunteers. We’ll let you know when the next one is scheduled.