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DIRECTOR'S REPORT **FEBRUARY 2024**

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

Juliet and I met with State Librarian George Seamon and representatives from the Black Hills Library Consortium to discuss a possible alternate materials courier system for the Black Hills area. The State Library is finalizing negotiations and a contract, and we anticipate we may have more timely and consistent transport of library materials in the Black Hills as of March or April.

I provided an overview of library services to the Care Campus meeting, which includes participants from the Police and Sheriff's Departments, One Heart, Pivot Point, Journey On, Oyate Health, and others. We discussed the change to broaden library access for those who may not have a fixed address and the number of resources we have that can provide them with job and life skills development. I also invited them to schedule small group tours for some of their clients.

NEW SERVICES:

The library has a new online subscription to the New York Times. This subscription provides library users with full access to all NYT features including news, cooking, games, and podcasts. The newspaper may be accessed from the library and remotely through the library's website.

An individual's access to the library's desktop computers has been extended from 3 to 4 hours. Users will start with 90 minutes, with automatic extensions up to 4 hours if no one else has booked the computer. This increase of access is being done as a trial to see if there is an increase in use or issues with people finding an available computer.

The non-fiction book collections have been shifted, with oversized books being incorporated into the regular book shelves. This gives patrons a more comprehensive view of the collections when browsing, and makes one less place for them to look when searching for a specific topic.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

The agenda for the April 22 Black Hills Libraries Mini-Conference is being developed, with a keynote speaker presenting on Poverty 101. The State Library will also present some sessions, and we expect a full day of engaging sessions and networking opportunities.

Lisa attended *Introduction to Restorative Justice for Community Healing and Transformation*, and I attended a 2-day *Restorative Justice Basic Practitioner Training*. We will both attend a more intensive restorative justice seminar in April and May. Restorative justice is an approach that seeks to repair harm done by a person while still holding them accountable for their actions. We hope to determine if there are applications of the principle that could be used when addressing the behavior of library users who violate the rules of conduct.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

We were notified that a grant proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for expanded reciprocal borrowing services was not moved forward. Some of the grant reviewers rated the proposal highly and recommended funding, but two did not. However, all reviewers provided important feedback regarding the proposal that I will use to make revisions and updates, with an eye towards resubmitting this proposal at a later date. Many thanks to Katie Pavel and Jamie Toennies of the city's grants division who wrote the majority of the grant proposal.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- January 2, Newscenter1 Coverage: [Check out the Rapid City Public Library's most popular media of 2023](#)
- January 20, Rapid City Journal Two Cents Column: *I appreciate all the services available at our local library. But I wish there was more emphasis on adult readers, more current books, and the return of presentations by published authors.*
- January 24, Live KOTA Noon Show: Reader's Advisory

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- January 1, Google 1-Star Review: Brought books in to donate and we were told they didn't want any more used books - only new ones! Wow! I guess I won't be donating to this library any longer! I will donate my clean, used books elsewhere. - G "Jersey" A
- January 16, Google 5-Star Review: Always helpful! - Catherine Zelfer
- January 30, Google 5-Star Review: We were there for toddler storytime. Wonderful storytellers and fabulous staff. Love that place. - Randy Roberts

VACANCY REPORT:

Vacancy Status as of 2/1/24					
DEPARTMENT	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL POSITIONS	CURRENT EMPLOYEES	VACANCIES	STATUS
Management	Master's in Library Science	2	2	0	
Senior Librarians	Master's in Library Science	2	2	0	
Coordinators	Bachelor's Degree	3	3	0	
Business Office	Associate's Degree	1	1	0	
Facilities	Custodial experience	2.75	2.75	0	
Library Associate I	Bachelor's Degree	15.75	15.75	0	
Library Associate II	Bachelor's Degree	8	5	3	<i>Applications are being received and interviews conducted for the Early Education LA2.</i>
Library Technicians	Associate Degree	2	2	0	
Outreach	Bachelor's Degree	2.75	2.75	0	
TOTALS		39.25	36.25	3	