



Keokuk Listening Session Tuesday March 24, 2015

The listening session was attended by 6 Tri States Public Radio Staff members and 5 members of the Keokuk community.

The session was moderated by station manager, Jonathan Ahl. The session opened with a brief presentation on Tri States Public Radio and introductions of staff members present. After the station presentation the participants were asked a number of questions. A summary of the questions and answers is below.

What would you like to tell us about your community/What do you wish people knew about your community?

- 1) Keokuk has the most vibrant arts community for a town of its size. Arts and ET district. Keokuk arts center where they do tasteful shows all the time, change monthly. Came from Cultural and Entertainment District

Follow Up: What is the Cultural and Entertainment District?

One of 8 cities in IA selected to try this program out. Program died when the Governor changed.

- 2) How friendly Keokuk is. People change jobs in town four or five times and stay for 40 years because they don't want to leave. We take people in and put them to work. Many communities don't treat people like an insider until they've been there for two generations.
- 3) Rand Park, view of the Mississippi.
- 4) More to Keokuk than Main Street.

What are the major issues facing your community?

- Getting people more involved in the improvement in Keokuk.
- Economic development.
- Negativity of a third to a half of the community.
- Health care is a real issue. In fear of losing the hospital Keokuk used to have two hospitals, now we don't have a modern hospital.
- "Earthworm of a main street." Has no brain. Urban renewal, ended up with a dead downtown. What do you do to restock Main Street?

What can we do at TSPR to cover these issues better?

1) Clone Jason.

Follow Up: Send more resources their way to cover these issues?

Answered with a yes.

2) What are the commonalities between Burlington and Keokuk.

3) Have to get more people listening to public radio.

Is TSPR serving the cultural needs of your community?

- For me as a listener, yes.
- What is meant by culture?
- A few really wealthy folks. And then lots of people who have way too little.
- Black community here has had a role, but they've been marginalized.
- Latino community is not big here.
- Lots of folks here don't know that much about this town.

How would you like TSPR to be engaged in your community?

- Have a Keokuk Concert series. TSPR has a concert series. Is it possible to partner?
- Folk alliance, connect the Cafe Paradiso and the Celebration concert series.