



Galesburg Listening Session April 28, 2015

The listening session was attending by 8 Tri States Public Radio Staff members and 4 members of the Galesburg community.

The session was moderated by Underwriting and Outreach Coordinator, Heather Norman. 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?

- From Dahinda, not Galesburg, an agricultural area with a lot of retirees. There is a large aging population here.
- Great community, great schools, great recreation opportunities. Great tourism. Lots of events.
- Big events are RR Days and Galesburg Days, other attractions Heritage Days, Orpheum Theater, Discovery Depot, Carl Sandburg birthplace, historical sites. We are a transportation hub/railroad town.
- A hometown flavor.
- Easy to get around town.
- We have great parks—especially Lake Storey and Lincoln Park. Prestigious private college in town plus a well-known community college, and two hospitals.
- Philanthropic community—we have a lot of non-profits and they are well-supported.

What are the major issues facing the community?

- Short-sightedness. Past mistakes, but maybe some things are getting better. People are still living in the past.
- Haven't recovered from factory losses. Need industry and a whole new self-image.
- Perceptions... "Galesburg is a great place to starve" bumper stickers.
- Unrealistic expectations. Believing that one big factory would save everyone.
- Need a better vision for the future.

- Lack of evolution in community, related to social and global issues. -Example of short-sightedness: People want to bring Monarch butterflies here but that requires milkweed, which is on a list of noxious weeds. Need city cooperation.
- High poverty levels.
- We have some progressive, forward-thinking people on the city council and we need more.
- Lack of residential development and affordable housing. We have bedroom community issues, in that people live in other towns and work here. We need them here living and shopping.

What can TSPR do to better cover these issues?

- Wonders if there could be some kind of local public affairs program. 30 or 60 minute interviews/discussions.
- Do national commitments affect ability to offer blocks of local programming?

Is TSPR serving the cultural needs of your community?

- More ag reporting.
- Asked about relationships with cultural organizations in town, including Knox, Sandburg, Orpheum.

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

- Would like to see more local programming for Latinos in the community and everyone.
- Not just listening sessions, but attend festivals and other events, such as Railroad Days and First Fridays.