Meeting Notes

Committee: Leadership Network  Date: 10/12/2017
Location: Metro East Parks and  Start Time: 8:30 a.m.
Recreation District - Collinsville, IL  Adjourned: 10:30 a.m.

In Attendance:
Mark Vogl, Great Rivers Greenway  Donna Coble, Forest Releaf
Doug Sitton, Sitton Energy Solutions  Louise Bradshaw, St. Louis Zoo
Phil Valko, WUSTL  Jenny Wendt, University City
Liza Farr, Bi-State Development  Melissa Vatterott, MCE
Kim Petzing, Madison County Planning  Ally Siegler, MCE
and Development  Mary Grace Lewandowski, EWG
Mary Vandevord, Heartlands Conservancy  Bonnie Harper, EWG
Louise Bradshaw, St. Louis Zoo
Jenny Wendt, University City
Melissa Vatterott, MCE
Ally Siegler, MCE
Mary Grace Lewandowski, EWG
Bonnie Harper, EWG
Aaron Young, EWG

Meeting Notes

1. OneSTL Updates

A presentation was given providing an update on the Sustainability Lab @ T-Rex as well as the goals and metrics that resulted from the Sustainability Summit.

Discussion:

The Sustainability Lab has been successful so far with an average of 40-50 people attending each month. Attendance varies by topic or presenter. Meeting attendees agreed that at least one session per lab should feature a discussion of one of the regional goals. Lab agendas are posted on http://www.onestl.org/get-involved/regional-initiatives/sustainability-lab and everyone is encouraged to help promote attendance at the Lab. An RFP is also open for anyone interested in hosting a session at the lab. Session slots are open starting in January 2018. The February 2018 lab will involve a blender of all the working groups and roll out of the 2018 Report to the Region. A mentoring service will also be rolled out in 2018 as part of the overall lab structure.

2. Regional Working Group Reports

Regional working groups tasked with moving the goals forward each reported on their progress to date. A handout was passed out with a table that contains the contact information for each working group.

Waste and Materials – reduce the tonnage of material going to landfills from our watershed by 30% by 2030 over 2015 baseline

The group is working on an educational campaign about single-stream recycling because 7 counties in the region are covered by 2 recyclers. They are also reaching out to a long list of people who have a role in recycling or composting, e.g. cities, counties, organizations, specialty recyclers to be part of a waste advisory group. The group is also applying for a grant from the St. Louis Jefferson County Solid Waste Management District to get funding to promote standard messaging about recycling through print media, bus ads, radio ads and social media.
**Meeting Notes**

**Energy and Emissions – Reduce GHG emissions by 28% by 2025 and 80% by 2050 over 2005 baseline**

The group is working on a letter of commitment to the goal similar to the We are Still In campaign for St. Louis organizations to sign-on to their commitment to reducing GHG emissions. Ameren has just announced their own GHG reduction goal that almost aligns with our regional goal. The working group will have 4 sub-committees formed around data analytics, energy generation, energy conservation and transportation. The WUSTL Sustainability Exchange class is helping to research how to undertake a regional GHG emission inventory. There are challenges with translating how much energy efficiency practices equate to emission reductions. The MO chapter of the NAACP has just announced their focus on climate justice and GHG emission reductions. The working group is seeking to collaborate with that effort.

**Food Access – Reduce by half the number of census tracts where 70% of residents are considered low income and low access by 2027**

This group is convened through the St. Louis Food Policy Coalition. They have held listening sessions in North St. Louis City and County to understand residents’ food access needs. There may be plans to expand to the Metro-East next year. A workshop is planned about innovative food outlets since grocery stores are not likely to go into those census tracts. The group is looking into transit ads about healthy eating and how to use the Metro network to get to healthy food outlets. A question was raised about the goal – what does it mean if food access is improved but income levels are not? That is something the group will have to think a bit more about. Hopefully, strategies that address access can also help to improve other quality of life issues as well.

**Biodiversity – By 2025, 100% of counties in the combined statistical area of St. Louis are using a standardized, ecoregion-driven biodiversity inventory and atlas that helps actively guide their planning, policies and practices in ways that increase habitat connectivity, ecological functionality and quality of life for all**

The group is convened through the BiodiverCity coalition and feels urgency around the issue of biodiversity because every day decisions are made that erode biodiversity. The City of St. Louis is trying to get partners to help roll out an Urban Biodiversity Inventory Framework. There are lots of biodiversity data floating around, and the goal is really about meeting the challenge of pulling it all together in a framework that is user-friendly for decision-makers. The group would like to know if the Ecoregion context could be used as the context in the other working groups. Next steps for the group include meeting with planning and zoning staff around the region to see if this inventory and atlas could work for them. The group would also like to learn about comprehensive plan updates that are planned and how to get the biodiversity information plugged into planning processes. Madison County Comprehensive Plan Update is currently underway. A question was asked about the goal – are there biodiversity metrics that the group has thought about to measure biodiversity decline or improvement? Things like % of tree canopy cover will be factored in. The group sees implementation of the goals through providing practical recommendations about how to re-create habitats and bring back species that are right for the Ecoregion.

**Transit Oriented Development – goal development in progress**
Meeting Notes

The group is working towards the elements of what TOD is in the region. We can’t be too prescriptive because it will be up to each community about how to incorporate TOD. Question about the goal – Have you thought how to measure TOD? Metro is going to start to measure how people access transit, i.e. by bike, walking or car and this will paint a picture of how walkable or dense areas near stations are. The group is also thinking about trail oriented development and will consider how to plug into Trailnet planning, the GRG Chouteau trail and St. Louis County who just got a grant to do bike route planning.

Water and Green Infrastructure – 100% of land in the St. Louis region has active organizations and quality watershed plans in progress by 2025 and plans completed by 2030

This group is associated with East-West Gateway’s Water Resources Committee. A meeting was held as a Sustainability Lab session where the group started to ‘map’ out and document active groups in the region’s watersheds.

Community Development – Equitably increase social and economic diversity to reduce the % of low-income residents living in areas of concentrated poverty by 50% by 2030

No specific organizations, coalitions or leaders have emerged yet to focus on this goal. There are a plethora of organizations in the region working on these issues so there is a need to approach them to see how best to focus efforts towards this goal.

3. Future direction of Leadership Network

The OneSTL Leadership Network structure has now changed to incorporate each of the leaders of the working groups. The original technical assistance arm of the network has split into the seven different regional goal working groups. Leaders from each group will now meet and report back on progress as part of an overall coordinating team. A communication team is being put together as well as a communication strategy to better communicate between all the working groups as well as to improve social media and other external communication tools to promote regional sustainability efforts. The plan is to still try and work with InvestSTL about establishing funding assistance for sustainability projects.

The OneSTL website has a page that provides a summary of what each of the working groups is working on. Feedback is requested from leaders about what they would like to see displayed on the webpage about their group. http://www.onestl.org/get-involved/regional-initiatives.

4. Next Steps

A survey has been created to seek community feedback on the regional goals. It will be open until November 17, 2017. Everyone is encouraged to promote the survey through their networks. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/onestlgoals. Results from the survey will be provided in November 2017. In December – January, the working groups should use the results to refine their goals if they deem it necessary. The final goals will be published in the 2018 Report to the Region in February 2018.
Options for buy-in or adoption of the goals are currently being considered as a way for organizations to formalize their commitment to implementation. Attendees agreed that at least there needs to be minimum requirements to be a OneSTL partner.

OneSTL Leadership Network meetings have traditionally alternated between Illinois and Missouri. Attendees agreed to continue that tradition so the next meeting will be held at the end of January at Great Rivers Greenway.

5. Other business

Heartlands Conservancy is updating their two-county (Madison and St. Clair) green infrastructure framework with tree canopy data.

There is an Environmental Justice conference coming up on November 9 hosted by UMSL but it will be located at the St. Louis Zoo.

There are at least two groups who are talking about using Metro as a forum for getting messaging out. Is there a way to coordinate efforts to get a better deal with Metro?

6. Action items:

1. All: Promote the Sustainability Lab each month and the RFP to be a session presenter or mentor.

2. All: Promote the Regional Sustainability Goals survey

3. All: Provide information to Bonnie about what you would like to see displayed about your working group on the OneSTL website.

4. Liza: find out if it would be worthwhile to package together proposals to use Metro for advertising