Meeting Notes

Committee: Leadership Network  
Date: 7/25/2017  
Location: T-Rex, 911 Washington Ave.  
Start Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Adjourned: 3:00 p.m.

In Attendance:
Stephen Acree, Rise  
Lisa Cagle, Citizens for Modern Transit  
Loura Gilbert, Commerce Bank  
Mary Grace Lewandowski, EWG  
Bonnie Harper, EWG  
Jessica Mefford-Miller, Bi-State  
Aaron Young, EWG

Meeting Notes

1. Sustainability Lab @ T-Rex

The Sustainability Lab @ T-Rex is a partnership between OneSTL and T-Rex, the downtown St. Louis technology business incubator. The Lab was created based on the concept of Venture Café at Cortex, but with a couple of significant differences. First being the Lab will be curated to focus on content related to sustainability in general and specifically on working toward the regional goals identified at the Sustainability Summit. Second, sessions at the Lab will have various structures, but the Lab is intended to have an impact on people, organizations and communities trying to be sustainable.

2. 2017 Sustainability Summit Recap

The Sustainability Summit was held in collaboration with 13 organizations. Refer to the powerpoint presentation for an overview of attendance and the regional sustainability goals that were developed during Summit workshops. Levels of buy-in for adopting the goal were also presented.

Discussion:
A hack-a-thon could be important for metrics and finding data not collected by the census for tracking the metrics identified at the Summit. St. Louis Civic Tech partnered with Open Data STL to do a hack-a-thon to create an app for the municipal court system. The app is called YourSTLcourts(.com) – started by RISE who got the grant. A hack-a-thon could be a way to make trends visible that are not (i.e. commute time by race) because that type of data is not collected by the census.

Too often people back into a metric that’s not really achieving anything just because a metric is needed. Agriculture is missing from the GHG high impact categories. Businesses and developers need to be part of concentrated poverty discussion because of land use decisions i.e. the problem of call centers building in Wentzville and then they need transit and people to work for them. Metro is going through a transit review and would like an inventory or catalog of places prime for development because of transit.

3. Leadership Network

Past meetings of the Leadership Network were used to get feedback on the overall progress and activities of OneSTL, plus to hear about local projects.
Discussion:
Members of the leadership network could do strategic work on finding champions and applying pressure and finding ways to move metrics. Champions could be found in a forum hosted by Women in Real Estate or ULI.

There is a need to pull vacancy task forces into these conversations. Patrick Brown is leading the vacancy task force at St. Louis City. SLACO is also involved and Washington University had a land lab in partnership with the City.

InvestSTL is still happening and is currently putting out an RFP to see who needs help with capacity building in specific areas.

4. Next steps

The next meeting will be scheduled for the week of October 9 at the offices of Metro East Parks and Recreation District.