

Moscow Dialogues Session #1 Meeting Notes

Southeast Area (SE)

- Existing neighborhood is a mix of new and old
- Neighborhood has a variety of people including busy professionals, retired and others, all are congenial
- There is high turnover in some areas, many homes for sale in certain locations
- There is a significant amount of new construction, much like living in a construction zone
- Little impact by university students, such as the boarding house issue
- Neighborhood is accessible to local businesses, Eastside Market Place etc.
- Need sidewalks on Mountain View and the ability to safely cross Mountain View; enforcement of traffic laws, visibility problems, etc.
- Need parks, trails and walkways between all areas of town
- Need parks that appeal to all ages and activities

Southwest Area (SW)

- The citizens in this neighborhood are very much in agreement that they do not want to be connected to the University to the North or to the rest of the town
- They want to be R- 1 and they do wonder why an R- 1 zone abuts R-4 zones in several places
- remember how they stopped the potential roadway connecting these two subdivisions
- These citizens feel that planning and development is too piecemeal. There is little long-term vision, they think

- This group would like to see larger city sponsored plans for development. (the idea or size of a larger development was not discussed)
- They are also concerned about the new by-pass or ring road whichever comes first. They seem to want it and yet fear it. Want it if it enhances traffic around the city, but fear it if it comes into their neighborhood
- It was noted that the traffic on Conestoga as it crosses over to the University is intense and moves too fast. (How many cars do travel on Conestoga each day'?)
- There is great concern that, as the Sports Complex is developed and as new housing is built to the south this same Conestoga site could become a throughway for traffic to the university
- Action Ideas: Some ideas for things to do or not:
 1. There needs to be sidewalks on Ridge View Road.
 2. Palouse River Drive needs to be upgraded for the new traffic that is certainly coming.
 3. The Palouse Creek could be made into a Greenway.
 4. Never connect the University and this neighborhood.
 5. How could the city plan for a school on this side of the city?
 6. Traffic calming designs were requested for Conestoga.
 7. Since we have a fee for street-lights why not a fee for sidewalks?
- Positive Aspects
 - Old established neighborhood
 - Quiet
 - Beautiful views
 - Minimum traffic

- Mix of ages
 - Close connections with people
 - Trees
 - Owner-occupied houses & permanent residents
 - Larger lot sizes
 - Off street parking
 - 50/50 mix of university and business employees
 - Proximity to University
 - Arboretum
- Arboretum is very important
 - Quiet neighborhood
 - Walking friendly, can walk to work
 - Mixed ages, one level homes, low traffic, views
 - History, want to retain character, family oriented, proximity to university
 - Quick transition from single family homes into apartments near University
 - Yearly picnic, neighbors are close
 - A lot of families employed at university or in education
 - Well established, family oriented and diverse neighborhood
 - Many moved here from other Moscow neighborhoods
 - Concerns with added traffic, loss of views with new development and ball fields
 - Mostly owner occupied single family residential homes

- Larger lots with more space
- Mixture of young families through retirees
- Off-street parking common, not on-street
- No sidewalks or not on both sides – need sidewalks
- Moderate size homes, newer ones are larger, older are smaller but were larger at the time they were built, about 1800 square feet
- CC&Rs have gone by the way-side, would like to have them, part of the reason for uniformity of neighborhood
- There is a variety in style
- Neighborhood is well maintained
- Nature and character of arboretum is important
- Ball field issue brought neighborhood together; concerns about noise and views
- Recognize people in neighborhood, familiarity
- Interaction after work, quiet during the day
- “professorville” see neighbors at work and reinforces connections
- Walkable, like stairs and pathways between streets
- Boarding houses a concern, especially with noise, traffic and maintenance of property; More nuisance calls made in last three years; threat to character of neighborhood
- Covenants need homeowners association to operate
- Noise concern depends on type and activity, number of vehicles on the street.
- Concern that people are adding extra dwelling units in home, turning into duplexes

- Threat of zoning changes
- Ballfield concern over lights, PA system, tournaments, time, concentrated traffic
- Qualities of neighborhood attracted the residents to the area not the house
- Taylor Street once was SFR and turned into MFR – has no sidewalks, crosswalks but a lot of activities, playing ball, people in street
- Topography is nice, keeps traffic speeds down
- Exit points from area go thru high density residential areas
- Don't want 4-way intersection at Palouse River Drive and Conestoga
- Conestoga has high speed traffic – need traffic humps. New development has an effect. Need stop signs.
- Need transitions between zones – conflicting uses. Greenways and Parks between zones.
- Taylor Street appearance is bad. Need better locations for dumpsters.
- Need sidewalks on both sides of streets.
- W Palouse River Drive – adequate development of arterials, needs improvements, sidewalks
- Bus and transportation. Need pick up location. Should be included with new development and ball fields.
- Shouldn't change PRD to Ringroad
- Need transportation before land uses, transportation is key
- Other people think area is desirable; it is safe, has low traffic, arboretum
- Better than other areas, like "A" Street
- Need university housing types if this is going to remain a University Community

- Mixed residential uses add to aesthetic around university
- people are drawn to walk in neighborhood from outside the area
- Sidewalks should have tree lawn on at least one side with more street trees
- No private streets

City Central North Area (CCN)

- Neighborhood is the heart of city with trees, old homes, mostly single family
- East City Park is the heart of the heart, love having it there, love the joyful noise, mix of people/dogs
- Connected to downtown with walkable sidewalks on both sides of streets
- Is of human scale, not mechanical, not rushed, cars are not most important, multi mode transport (kid-mobile, walk, bike, skate)
- People are multi-generational, kids to older
- Neighborhood has the “neat” stuff; East City Park, historic homes, courthouse, 1912 Center, McConnell Mansion, Library, Churches
- Neighborhood has renters, provides diversity, mix of expensive and inexpensive housing choices (old, new, good, bad) and old apartment homes (brick)
- Howard Street ‘kid cycles’ transition of kids, always some
- East of Hayes is newer, more affordable and good for young families
- Higher traffic streets create barriers to crossing and neighborhood connectivity
- Neighborhood schools help connect the neighborhood (Russell and Lena)

- Neighborhood issues bring neighborhood together (such as schools, 1st street snow removal society, 3rd street pedestrian bridge supporters)
- Entire city is neighborhood with 22,000 best friends, soccer program born here, grew to entire town
- Bad experiences; lack of planning east of Mountain View without traffic provision, can be difficult to get across town, but does not mean you get to travel straight through other neighborhoods
- New growth should be encouraged to the north or south, not east, because facilities better available
- Existing neighborhoods should not suffer for new development
- City should plan street grid in new areas and insist developers comply for city benefit as a whole
- When, or when, will be get a bypass/ring road???

Changes to Neighborhood

- Houses are being sold to U of I parents and converted to many students, big problems within parking, turn over, hard on houses, loss of property value
- Conversion to Rentals; save homes from 'rental degradation', over crowding, cars.
- Need regulations that provide housing for all but preserve the neighborhood
- Mix of people has changed, rentals with homeowner occupants work better
- Density has increased, but how in this neighborhood, maybe design review?
- Bus is good!

- Good, big houses rehabbed, quality homes are a resource, but some working families are priced out
- Should legalize mother-in-law and other accessory dwelling units
- A Street is 30 MPH, Why? Love 4-way stop at B Street, 2-way on first, and lights on 3rd
- Want neighborhood to be pedestrian and bike friendly, welcome others outside neighborhood, they think we are lucky.
- Improve sidewalks, why developments with no sidewalks? We now need them
- Love old trees, walkability, historic treasures and people

South Area (S)

- Neighborhood is educated, diverse, professional, children and all different ages, includes large student population in certain areas, sunrise village retirement development and care home; quiet, established and houses are kept up; feels like living on edge of town; cottages are unique, diverse and kids can play in the street; neighbors talk and know each other, respectful, different perspectives, safe
- Neighborhood is somewhat separated by two highways/large roads, hard to cross highway 8 and/or 95 to get downtown from trail
- Neighborhood is connected to natural systems, trees along entrance, wildlife, the Silos, the Paradise Path/Latah Trail, and walking dogs; do not like all the fences which divide people
- Threat of new development has connected neighbors together; noise/disruption of construction, potential traffic impacts on Travois and Blaine intersection, faster traffic with wide roads

- No local neighborhood school in or near the neighborhood, long bus travel for children
- Would like walking paths from top of hill to highway, need traffic signal at Styner/95 Intersection, need sidewalks and pedestrian connections to businesses on the north side of Highway 8 and along Blaine Street
- Need neighborhood park space, different kinds of parks, and connected; possible community garden
- Need traffic light at Mountain View, possible pedestrian bridge over Highway 8, more traffic with new development
- Neighborhood known for; the Cottages (birdhouses), how do you get there?, where smart growth is occurring, ok place to be in the street (The Cottages), Silos, that's where NRS is (future).
- Other comments, new comprehensive plan a good reason to change, affordable housing needed, neighborhoods and covenants and restrictions.

North Central Area (NC)

- Neighborhood is a mix of the north edge of center of town and fringe on north side,
- Several pod neighborhoods off of Orchard Ave, secluded, kids playing in streets, but can create isolation and lack of pedestrian connections, curved streets
- Neighborhood is a blend of people, all ages, everybody knows everybody, backyards flow together, can hear frogs
- Neighborhood is convenient, access to public facilities (pool, HIRC, Bearfield, schools), has mature trees, intermittent sidewalks a problem.
- F Street has high traffic as through street, need more through streets E, F, what about 3rd? Orchard should be a good north south collector
- Character in North Moore and E Street area, sidewalks good, kids walk to school through there, like getting to know people out walking and over

- the fences, common ground creates friends; but traffic is too fast, need more safety
- Public Avenue is blessed with good neighborhoods, family orientated, but disconnected
 - Infill development should fit within neighborhood
 - Lack of sidewalks means kids can't make easy connections, could use alleys for walking connections
 - Thatuna right-of-way is a challenge, road should not go through? Loss of sledding hill and 4th of July observation point
 - New traditions; Arbocrest Hoop Fest
 - Changes; North Polk development; South of D Street, St. Mary's new gym expansion; North east, may see new high school and residential/commercial development, new hub of small scale commercial uses; increased rumble of distant traffic; PCEI relocation, need better access to
 - Bus is great; bathrooms at Rotary Park are great; wetland restoration good
 - Housing mix is fair, need to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood and density, R-2 and R-3 and older homes to prevent conversion to apartments; some single family homes becoming revolving apartment houses, degrade homes
 - Would like pocket parks, maybe end of Lande Lane
 - Favorite things are edge of town feel and views, open space and mature trees, accessibility, privacy, proximity to rural areas, mature development, kids, mix of people, neighbors but no traffic from them (pods), cul-de-sacs, and evolution of neighborhood and family cycles
 - Changes neighborhood would like; stop sign at E and Moore Street, reduce F Street traffic, possible new road east-west from Mountain View to Orchard to 95, connection down hill to Lola Clyde Park, sidewalks

- along all of Orchard Avenue, change extension of Thatuna ROW (maybe park?), add a bus stop on Orchard Ave, need more bike lanes
- New housing is too often geared to autos and garages, don't know neighbors, need better design in new subdivisions
 - Best things about neighborhood; family friendly, close to youth activities, country living in the city, wildlife, nice neighbors, pretty close to downtown and East City Park, open space and barns
 - Other comments; need bypass/truck route to the west, forced LIDs to pave all gravel roads in the City, take another look at limiting lights etc. on playfields

City Central South (CCS)

- Neighborhood is older, some areas are deteriorating, has a mix of uses and architecture, many families, includes historic areas, has variety and is a grid street system
- Lots include a variety of sizes with small hills, mature trees, small animals, and includes community features such as the triangle park, fairgrounds, paradise creek, Eastside Marketplace
- West side is older, east side is post WWII
- Like Xmas lighting, neighborhood block parties, playing in streets, kids and green grass, and dogs that tie the neighborhood together
- Neighborhood creates sense of belonging, security, friends, community, aesthetics and ambiance, like grid streets
- Changes to neighborhood include deterioration of infrastructure (curbs, sewer and water), conversion to denser residential uses, more transient residents, loss of bridge at White Avenue
- Neighborhood is connected by community sounds, music from East City Park, fair noises, etc.

- There is a concern of employees parking in neighborhood and traffic noise, diversions might be necessary
- East west access via highway 8 is not good, difficult to get on and off
- Neighborhood has the best people, is settled, connected via grid, walkable via grid and sidewalks, need to relieve pressure off of 6th Street, possibly putting 3rd street bridge through to Mountain View
- Neighborhood has nice trees, personality, established and well cared for, pride of ownership, quiet, neighborhood is like a park
- City policies should compliment and support neighborhood conservation
- Want Moscow to remain pleasant and livable town. Some, controlled growth is good
- Concerned with drawdown of aquifer
- Housing needs to be “affordable”
- Fairgrounds should stay open space, not converted to apartment bldgs or other commercial use(s)
- Moscow should increase wealth, but through “smart” growth
- Downtown is vibrant and residential areas surrounding core should be preserved with some small-scale commercial
- More investment needed in downtown area—esp. parking and attract high tech businesses
- Chose CCS neighborhood because of it’s character (i.e. front porches, mature street trees, sidewalks, walkable distance to D.T.)
- Neighborhood pocket park needed in neighborhood full of lots of kids
- Sidewalks need to be on all residential streets
- Codes are needed to preserve neighborhood character and insure that new development is considerate of character

- Rentals are tricky—do not want whole area to deteriorate but think some rentals can be accommodated *if* designed appropriately. Design standards probably not the answer, rather form-based codes
- Expls. exist in neighborhood of rentals that “mimic” the neighborhood character
- Neighborhood facilities may cause more divisiveness than connections (i.e. Ice Rink)
- Neighborhood is very walkable and as a result people connect in this fashion
- Neighborhood is moving back towards young families
- Streets are very diverse, not common for large gatherings or functions
- Some residents are very transient (students) and not interested in improving neighborhood
- Vacant lot b/t Mabelle and Harold would be ideal local park/gathering spot (conservation easement?)
- Lack of growth at UI and construction of new apts may mean that demand for rentals in the neighborhood is down
- Grid street system in neighborhood makes for more walkable neighborhood
- Winter hazards: steep, icy, sidewalks
- More bicycling; easy connections to paths
- Need wheelchair ramps at all street crossings
- Need footbridge across Paradise Cr. @ Harrison and crosswalk on Hwy. 8
- Like the mix of residential zoning which allows diversity of lot sizes and housing types

- Outside money coming in could radically change character of neighborhood very quickly. Should take action to protect against rapid change
- New residents seem to be willing to trade open space/farmland for large homes
- Traffic within city core seems to have reached a threshold
- Downtown growth should go vertical, not horizontal
- Densification should happen in a way that doesn't result in unintended impacts to existing neighborhood (i.e. excess paving or crowded on-street parking, noise)
- Home occupations need to be carefully monitored in residential neighborhoods with specific criteria for what is acceptable
- Armory may be vacant soon (state owned property)
- Entire Fairgrounds should remain public space
- Traffic has increased dramatically over last decade
- Density is increasing concurrent with loss of aesthetic character in neighborhood
- Old houses in neighborhood have also been fixed up/remodeled—positive
- Other houses to west have been converted to apts
- The neighborhood has a wide cross section of the population (from infants, to students, to elderly) all living as neighbors
- Vacant lot b/t Mabelle & Harold would serve children very well as park
- Increasing commuter traffic on residential "collectors" due to avoidance of busy arterials
- Traffic circles at intersections might help

- Some streets are not paved within the neighborhood & sidewalks are disconnected
- Wildlife able to thrive due to some of the deep, vegetated lots in the neighborhood
- Mix of housing types/design and older trees give neighborhood real character
- Generally very safe neighborhood—neighbors watch out for each other
- The neighborhood does connect seamlessly with neighborhoods to the north, but not to the east or south
- No organized groups, socializing takes place in ad hoc way due to close proximity of homes to one another
- Neighborhood has gently rolling topography which promotes character
- Divided on whether and to what extent commercial operations should be allowed to mix in the neighborhood with the existing residential
- Crossing Blaine St., and further east, Mountain View Rd. is not very safe

Central Business District (CBD)

- Mixed use area; core commercial district
- Residential along Lilly and east of Jackson college dominated apts
- Business owners, students, professionals live downtown
- High potential for condos D.T. for retirees, singles, empty nesters
- Very walkable area and safe
- Only commercial area that does not have req't for development to provide off-street parking, makes mixed use difficult
- Illegal to park in front of residential areas during daytime hours

- Approx. 150-200 residential units b/t 1st St. and 6th on Washington, Main, & Jackson St.
- Need to encourage more live/work situations, more professional type business or night-time businesses like restaurants, wine bars, specialty stores
- Public restrooms needed
- Health care (Gritman, dentist, eye doctor, etc.) is within walkable distance to residents of downtown and surrounding neighborhoods
- Large underutilized spaces (i.e. the Beach)
- Recent changes include conversion of some apts back to sfd and some sfd to small businesses. High turnover of some spaces on Main St.
- 40 years ago there were more rural type businesses and clothing stores have moved out (Mall competition)
- There does exist a good synergy between D.T. business and the surrounding neighborhoods, schools/university
- Gov't services are all almost exclusively D.T., as are art centered activities
- People residing D.T. without cars don't feel connected to other areas of town unless they can easily walk there. East City Park. Closest grocery store is Rosauers
- Need to change parking situation. It is a perceived problem for both businesses and the school district
- Students need to be required to pick up more trash around rental properties

Northeast (NE)

- Good people live in neighborhood, mostly exclusive R1 and R2 zoned with some larger ranch style/preserved lots, and Good Sam (retirees)

- Lots of public facilities—Jr. High, Eggan, ballfields, HIRC, etc.
- No commercial or neighborhood grocery—maybe not necessary
- A small shopping area may be needed as city grows further east, but people are still price conscious
- Neighborhood is beautiful and kids can walk to school, the pool, paths, pond, etc.
- Mountain View Rd. not fully walkable; incomplete—high priority
- Mixed response to commercial uses in neighborhood—small professional offices likely o.k. as well as low impact home occupations
- Distinguishing characteristics: Mtn. View Road (straight N-S arterial), Edge of town/suburban, lots of schools/city property
- Recent growth is primarily to the southeast, although infill has occurred
- Bigger houses, aging houses/residents, cul-de-sacs, traffic increase, less connected to neighbors, more “boarding houses”
- Not as friendly, not as homogenous, not as many single families
- Can still walk to local sporting events
- Henry Ct. seems to have a lot of turnover
- Stop sign recently placed a “D” and Mountain View is a big improvement
- Best qualities of neighborhood:
 1. Fishing and derby at pond
 2. pool/water park
 3. walking paths in neighborhood
 4. variety of residents
 5. friendly, community feel

- Wish there were more neighborhood gatherings/parties, etc.
- Hope that the adjacent farmland does not get converted, but see it as likely
- Want code to better define what is allowed in the R-1 & R-2 zones—exclude the larger (6 unrelated) rentals
- Add more public transportation (bus)
- Need more sidewalks/paths, esp. on Mtn. View Rd., “D”, and “F” Streets
- Don’t want the High School to move to this end of town—too much traffic
- Most agree that 3rd St. should connect to Mtn. View and to the east
- Connectivity in general is a good idea (expl. Damen St) just don’t do it on my street
- Development of Moser Park would be great asset
- Mix of people; elderly, families, students, very few rentals—need clarification of what zoning regs allow and how to enforce re: renting sfd’s
- Good mix of “town & gown” folks
- Neighborhood was not planned but developed piecemeal over time
- Lack of mature trees, and adequate sidewalks
- Distinguishing Characteristics; Fosberg Conservancy Land, Schools, pool, HIRC (not very good for adult recreation), Good Sam Village path, borders ag. land/open space with views
- Most feel more connected to the city as whole than the neighborhood per se
- Substantial turnover in homeowners over time
- Lack of sidewalks/paths reason for dividing area from rest of town

- Better continuation of linear park would create connectivity to areas to the west
- Neighbors look out for one another, feel safe
- Winter recreation site would bring neighbors together
- Area has changed with more paved streets, traffic, less open space, Good Sam
- Neighbors are considerate of others, but not really connected to other areas of Moscow. Pool/HIRC has improved some connectivity
- Mtn. View Rd. is a hazardous in some areas
- Highest priorities for neighborhood:
- Sidewalks and bikelanes on "D" and "F" St.
- More street trees/landscaping
- More social gathering within neighborhood
- Stop signs at "F" and Mtn. View
- Mtn. View as a N-S route is positive for others as is pool/HIRC
- Jr. High Sports facilities used widely
- Perception that the area is just sprawl
- Perception that the streets in this area are too wide
- Mixed response to bringing in commercial dev'ts, maybe small-scale coffee, ice cream shops, etc.
- Safe, well protected

Northwest (NW)

- Neighborhood

- Not involved in community
- Nontraditional
- Varied income
- Older homes, moving into rentals; more turn over and transitional people
- Impacts
 - Noise
 - Caring for property
 - Parking (many cars at one site)
 - Not involved in community
 - University controlled-limited growth
 - Safe routes to cross Highway 8
 - West Park is not a neighborhood school – only a few students walk
 - People moving in and out
 - 1/3 of school turns over each year
- To connect neighborhood
 - Across Highway 8
 - Connections to park and West Park School
- What do you like
 - Established parks
 - Community garden
 - Close to a “lab school” (West Park is not actually a lab school)

- Close to University
- University BBQ's
- Don't take out stop sign at "A" and Line Streets
- Need better route to Pullman Road to Southern area of town; have to travel through downtown or University
- Pedestrian link across Highway 8: overpass, tunnel, lights
- Need alternate route for truck traffic through town
- The "bottleneck" narrowing of Highway 8 is bad for traffic and pedestrians (at intersection with Third Street)
- School
 - not a real center or neighborhood school
 - most are bussed (9 buses) or driven by parents
 - students walk thru campus – concern for safety
 - disconnect between City and School District
 - reserve land for schools
 - school has a lot of data available
- Pathway is best connector for pedestrians; link lacking over "hill" to southwest part of town
- Park (Ghromley) and ball fields are heavily used
- Moscow is a community; has micro neighborhoods
- Parks and community garden are assets to area
- Rental transition
- Safety is not an issue

- How to make people feel welcome? Need events to get people out/volunteer day
- 1/3 of students turn over due to children of University students; need to retain graduates with high tech industry in Eastside Marketplace area/Alturas Park
- Need businesses that are developed attractively with industrial at edge
- Transportation
 - Speed humps, round-a-bouts
 - Traffic on “A”, widening of street: concerned about removing stop sign at Line St, need crossing for pedestrians, parking is bad
- Professional office and small businesses okay
- Need tax base; there are a lot of schools, churches and university that don't contribute
- Need to plan for parks and schools
- Where is the residential growth coming from? Where are employers?
- Health and wellness industry and retirement opportunities
- Boarding houses are a concern
- Save the swings at Ghormley – get a lot of use by University students
- Need restrooms in parks
- Put in Ice Rink where tennis courts are they are in bad shape
- Create opportunities to talk and meet neighbors with parks and recreation, University, school district
- Age demographic; people are busy – how to get temporary residents out?
- University connection with elementary students