



Moscow City Council
News Brief
January 25, 2006

NewCities staff members Steve Austin, Tad Long, and Tom Prather were in Moscow on January 18th and 19th, 2006 to report to the community its findings and conclusions from previous visits and conversations with community members who have participated in the NewCity Moscow Initiative.

Three concurrent discussion tracks were held with various groups and organizations. A presentation to the general public was held on Thursday, January 19th at the 1912 Center. NewCities staff addressed the need for an effective communications strategy, an economic development strategy, and a managed growth strategy. The three strategies are designed to reflect the values and quality of life that citizens of Moscow want – both now and in the future.

The Communications Strategy emphasizes the openness and transparency of government; the expression of opportunities to interact with the diverse culture of the community; and the importance of more fully integrating the University of Idaho and its students into the fabric of community life through partnership opportunities.

The Economic Development Strategy focuses on a long-term commitment to exploiting the small advantages of Moscow and the Palouse region over time to achieve economic and social sustainability into the foreseeable future. The NewCities Institute recommends the formation of a Presidential Commission consisting of the presidents of the University of Idaho and Washington State University along with city and county citizens on both sides of the state line to create a “Knowledge Corridor” along Highway 8/270.

The Community Planning Strategy provides the Moscow community, city planners, and city government with many options to address both the immediate and long-term concerns as expressed by citizens during several public meetings in the past few months. The menu of options include strategies to preserve the natural beauty of Moscow and its environs; alternative growth options including “inward growth” i.e. infill development and potential redevelopment of property; aesthetic-sensitive design; environment-friendly options; walkable neighborhoods; create a “greenbelt” around the city; and removal of physical barriers that separate the city and the University of Idaho.

Steve Austin and Tad Long will return to Moscow on March 2, 2006 to present their reports and recommendations to the City Council.