

March 11, 2015

To The City of Portland Planning Commission:

I am submitting these comments regarding proposed plans and zoning changes in the Buckman neighborhood.

I know that there is a large influx of people wishing to move into Portland because of its unique creative and livable family friendly environment. I suspect that the planning committee is very busy trying to figure out where all of these people will live, work and how they will transport themselves throughout the city.

I am an Oregonian and 40 plus years ago decided to make my home and raise my family in the Buckman neighborhood. I have huge concerns for the decisions being made – and dare say, that I question where loyalties lay. Is the planning commission identifying the needs for healthy strong neighborhoods or the visions of developers.

Over the last 5 years apartment complexes have been raised and some with little to no parking options for the renters – around 20th and SE Morrison. The noise, trash, increase in traffic in the area and fighting over parking places has increased significantly. I used to know my neighbors for blocks around and shared a healthy community. Living a small rural / urban experience. Now the density has increased and community decreased.

More development proposals are coming at us :

15th to 19th between Belmont & Morrison , the zoning proposed will allow unlimited density of residential units. We will end up with monolithic buildings, high density small high-rent units – displacing family- friendly housing, affordable duplexes and quadraplex rentals. STOP – what are the options –

1900 block between Alder and Washington : Do not change the zoning of the R5 properties to R2.5 properties . WHY would this even be considered, unless there were thoughts of increasing the density in the heart of Buckman neighborhood in the future. These are single family dwellings – that have historic significance.

14th and Stark: PLEASE do not disrupt this neighborhood any more – they will lose St Francis park and have to make room for ~100 new people into their space and are being impacted by the reuse of Washington High School. Find zoning that supports small scale retail and service use for the residential neighborhood...

CONSIDER: There is development capacity west of 12th -- that can be integrated with the warehouse businesses that already exist there.

- 1) Buckman Elementary already is having safety issues for children walking or biking to school.
- 2) The best zoning for our neighborhood, is one that supports existing single and multi-family housing – the existing zoning.
- 3) I propose a Safe, livable , walkable, community – that supports this creative small urban/rural neighborhood --- with low density.

Sincerely,

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