

**Comments on West Quadrant Plan by Daniel Salomon**

I am a published free lance environmental author with a Master of Arts degree in theological research along with a graduate certificate in science and religion and a Bachelors of Science degree with concentrations in Biology, Environmental Studies and Conflict Analysis/Dispute Resolution and a Naturalist Certificate. I am also a neurodiverse man on the autism spectrum.

I relocated my family cross country from Maryland to Portland, Oregon to be in the epicenter of the environmental movement and to live in and contribute to a green community. We also relocated cross-country to Portland, Oregon because of my disability. My disability necessitates that I live in a livable city with human scale apartment buildings, accessible public transportation, open green spaces and an accepting human community.

I currently live in Goose Hollow. My current living arrangement in Goose Hollow, meets all of the above criteria, while making it possible not only to write for publication, but also volunteer at the Hoyt Arboretum, Wilderness International, Friends of Goose Hollow (FOGH) and Goose Hollow Foothills League (GHFL).

I completely support the Goose Hollow Foothills League (GHFL) Board of Directors' position calling the West Quadrant Plan, the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and the City of Portland to "seek lower height limits and stricter controls over bonuses."

I lived in a neighborhood in Maryland, outside Washington D.C., where residents lived in high rise apartment buildings surrounded by skyscraping office buildings, multi-story parking garages, strip malls and busy streets, along with other high rise apartments, mitigated only by sparse trees, a precious few open green spaces and a precious few pocket parks. These precious few green spaces and pocket parks were woefully inadequately maintained and overflowing with litter. Living on the eleventh floor, I was completely isolated from the Natural World and human community. I ended-up twice in the emergency room for insomnia panic attacks because there was an inordinate amount of artificial light pollution and grating around the clock construction and traffic noise, coupled with electromagnetic chaos pollution from an inordinate amount of cell phone towers in my neighborhood. Such abrasive overstimulation of my already vulnerable nervous system made it impossible to sleep at night. In this lonely neighborhood without Nature, all there was to do in this neighborhood was eat at fast food restaurants and I developed a serious food addiction as a result. I could not even hear songbirds sing in springtime.

When it comes to the height limits debate currently going on in Portland, the stakes could not be higher. Living in a concrete jungle back in Maryland absolutely adversely impacted my physical and mental health and I became disembodied and isolated from both the Natural World and human community.

I also ended-up consuming more living in the concrete jungle. I actually ended-up consuming less when I relocated to a place closer to wild Nature in Maryland and even more so when I relocated to Portland,

Oregon, a livable city with accepting human community. I am very committed to keeping Portland livable and weird.

I completely support the recommendations of the West Quadrant Plan Minority Report which advocates for a more critical review of the current height bonus policy and FAR transfer policy, preservation of the distinctive character and human scalability of each of Portland's neighborhoods like Goose Hollow, concentrate tall buildings along the north-south transit corridor and at freeway viaducts, set height limits based upon realistic foreseeable market demands and contextualized to the specific conditions of a given neighborhood instead of a one-size-fits-all formulaic approach and create more affordable housing opportunities.

I am also against the demolition of historical structures which not only destroys beauty and local history in the city, demolitions also waste scarce resources. I advocate that bonuses be given to developers to preserve and restore at-risk historical structures and transform these historical structures into affordable housing opportunities and office space. I also advocate that bonuses be given to developers who actually contribute to the increased livability of their neighborhood.

I also share many of the concerns of the West Quadrant Minority Report in-regards to the existing West Quadrant Plan's inadequate provisions for the environmental sustainability of Portland, Oregon as our local response to the planetary crisis. Portland has a reputation of being an ecological beacon to the world. Portland absolutely must set a good example to the world in regards to environmental sustainability. I agree with the Minority Reports concern that the West Quadrant Plan needs more detailed and concrete environmental objectives in-regard to salmon recovery, green infrastructure, regulatory requirements for green roofs, riverbank restoration, climate change preparation, tree canopy targets, Tom McCall Park river access and low carbon development. I also agree with the Minority Report that there needs to be in the West Quadrant Plan, more interdisciplinary collaboration across allied environmental fields, more citizen involvement and more neighborhoods impute.

However, I see the current West Quadrant Plan as basically the right vision of what a positive future in Portland, Oregon would look like. This is an exciting vision of the future of Portland, Oregon. I definitely look forward to how all of this unfolds.

Looking forward! Thanks so much!

Daniel Salomon