

Public Open House

July 19, 2018

Participant Comments

Meeting Overview

The Envision Cambridge team held a public open house to review actions (proposed laws, policies, programs, etc.) that are recommended by the Envision Cambridge working groups. City staff briefly updated attendees on the planning process. Attendees could then review proposed actions at six “stations” that displayed action recommendations, as well as existing actions. Participants were asked to place a sticker next to actions they felt are priorities for the city to pursue.

Follow these links to view the [presentation](#), [displayed lists of action recommendations](#), and [existing actions](#) on the Envision Cambridge website.

Top Actions

Each action in the table below received 5 or more votes from open house participants.

ID	Action	Priority Tally
Housing 6	Establish or expand the use of taxes that provide dedicated revenue for affordable housing including a local real estate transfer tax (supplemental to state stamp tax), a speculative owner tax, and lodging tax on short-term rentals.	11
Housing 12	Identify opportunities to require local academic institutions to use their assets, especially their land, to build more housing and explore new housing partnerships and models that can better serve university-affiliated populations and the community.	11
Housing 11	Increase existing City funds and explore options for new revenue sources and support for dedicated affordable housing.	9
Community Wellbeing 1	Modify zoning to allow for live-work space for artists.	7
Urban Form 6	Require developers to install a minimum number of trees, as determined by the corridor character zones and the length of the parcel frontage.	7

Housing 8	Expand homelessness prevention services, including emergency resources and support, legal and mediation services, housing search, foreclosure prevention counseling, and education on tenants' rights.	6
Housing 1	Change zoning to enable more housing, including affordable housing, to be built along major corridors and in other areas that have the capacity to accommodate growth and are well-served by transit.	6
Housing 10	Prioritize City and other public property that is available for disposition to develop affordable housing.	6
Housing 4	Change base zoning to require that developers of multi-family projects of at least 10 units provide a certain number of family-sized units (i.e. units with at least 3-bedrooms).	6
Climate and Environment 4	Specifically serve low-income/high-vulnerability individuals and public housing residents with targeted preparedness and outreach programs (CCPR)	5
Climate and Environment 22	Add recycling bins around city in places where there are only waste bins	5
Community Wellbeing 26	Conduct an inventory of publicly accessible indoor meeting spaces, including the hours, capacity, location, and contact information for each space, and make available to public.	5
Community Wellbeing 27	Create a program that pairs artists with vacant spaces waiting for tenancy or redevelopment for pop-up shops, studio space, or other artistic use.	5
Community Wellbeing 29	Connect vulnerable populations, including elderly, LGBTQ+, homeless, immigrant, parent, and youth populations to mental/behavioral health prevention, screening, and treatment programs (i.e. Homeless Outreach Team, Injury Violence Prevention, Safety Net Collaborative).	5
Economy 3	Change zoning to increase commercial density and create jobs in areas such as Alewife.	5
Housing 14	Engage housing and service providers to produce quality permanent supportive housing for the homeless and other vulnerable populations.	5
Mobility 23	Collaborate with the MBTA on bus service planning to support bus priority initiatives, particularly in underserved areas, and advocate for additional service.	5

Mobility 28	Work with regional partners to study a Charles River ferry or water taxi service.	5
Urban Form 12	Establish guidelines to promote the addition of public pathways on large development sites where they would create desired neighborhood pedestrian and bicycle connections.	5
Urban Form 14	Allow developers to contribute to a fund for open space in areas where a need for such space is identified but it cannot be reasonably provided on-site.	5

Comments by Focus Area

Housing

General comments:

- Evacuation / Shelter in Place—need for citywide initiatives for all types of housing in case of climate change coming faster than anticipated
- More middle housing
- Students (low) versus real low income
- City purchasing through current land budget instead of developers buying and we are begging for affordable units
- Middle class \$60K-200K. Where is the plan to keep/ add housing for them?
- Balance recommendations that increase cost to build vs. reduces cost or incentives building

Action Comments:

Board ID	Action	Comments	Priority Tally
1	Change zoning to enable more housing, including affordable housing, to be built along major corridors and in other areas that have the capacity to accommodate growth and are well-served by transit.	Housing should include 5% units for middle income (80-120% AMI). "Capacity to accommodate growth" should only refer to infrastructural capacity NOT aesthetics	6
2	Offer density bonuses and relief from other dimensional regulations for fully affordable housing developments through a citywide affordable housing overlay or other regulatory mechanism.	Clarify so it does not imply that density bonuses are unlimited	4
3	Institute an incentive for owners of multifamily buildings who construct more affordable units than required by the Inclusionary Housing Program.	Yes, especially family sized units	3

Board ID	Action	Comments	Priority Tally
4	Change base zoning to require that developers of multi-family projects of at least 10 units provide a certain number of family-sized units (i.e. units with at least 3-bedrooms).		6
5	Modify the development approval process for fully affordable housing projects to require design review instead of a discretionary approval.	At least 50% of all new construction "affordable"	4
6	Establish or expand the use of taxes that provide dedicated revenue for affordable housing including a local real estate transfer tax (supplemental to state stamp tax), a speculative owner tax, and lodging tax on short-term rentals.		11
7	Establish a set of family-oriented services and amenities to be encouraged in new development.		
8	Expand homelessness prevention services, including emergency resources and support, legal and mediation services, housing search, foreclosure prevention counseling, and education on tenants' rights.	Get Amazon to help pay for homeless shelter. "Tent Cities" in appropriate locations for homeless.	6
9	Require the creation of significant new housing in areas that are being rezoned.	Revise inclusionary zoning ordinance to be triggered by substantial renovations as well. Clarify how this could be accomplished & the scale of rezoning & projects it would apply to	1
10	Prioritize City and other public property that is available for disposition to develop affordable housing.	Build affordable housing in existing buildings - avoid the continuing move of over- development.	6
11	Increase existing City funds and explore options for new revenue sources and support for dedicated affordable housing.	Can large companies in the Cambridge area (biotech industry) provide funding for affordable housing? Or increase if do? Employees earning 6 figure salaries are displacing other residents.	9

Board ID	Action	Comments	Priority Tally
12	Identify opportunities to require local academic institutions to use their assets, especially their land, to build more housing and explore new housing partnerships and models that can better serve university-affiliated populations and the community.	<p>Why limit to academic institutions? There are huge and really big pharma/ Google firms taking advantage of Cambridge's resources & what are we getting in return?</p> <p>Require university to house 50% of grad students? They should house students.</p> <p>Use PILOT system to extract greater resources, including requiring unused summer housing as transitional housing.</p> <p>Per C.40A, S.3, not legal to require institutions to use their property for nonacademic uses.</p>	11
13	Play an active role in regional and state advocacy efforts to facilitate increased affordable housing production, including the development of strategies for zoning reform.		1
14	Engage housing and service providers to produce quality permanent supportive housing for the homeless and other vulnerable populations.		5
15	Evaluate gaps in supportive housing services and assistance provided by the City, increase capacity and funds to address identified gaps, and increase awareness of available services	Have city compensate developers for floors above 2nd floor for residential	3

Economy

General comments:

- No offices, banks, or "agencies" in Inman Square
- Connect homeless/previously homeless individuals with employment opportunities in the area
- Explore the feasibility of municipal broadband for Cambridge
- Diversification: explore new options to encourage home ownership & expand affordable rental/ co-op options
- How do we deal with liquor license issues (inequity?) for new restaurants?
- Add affordable retail options to prevent gentrification.

- Prevent displacement of affordable retailers and other commercial tenants (EMF artists).

Action Comments:

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
1	Adapt the commercial land use classification to allow for flexible retail formats and business models.	<p>Make/enable small- scale retail to lower barriers to business ownership.</p> <p>How will medical & adults use marijuana providers participate in the local economy?</p>	4
2	Change zoning to increase density and achieve a mix of uses in targeted areas along Massachusetts Ave. and Cambridge St., in order to build the customer base for retail.		
3	Change zoning to increase commercial density and create jobs in areas such as Alewife.	<p>Alewife is being built out now, the train has left the station. We aren't going to get "manufacturing" here. It's gone elsewhere.</p> <p>The future is labs & workbars.</p>	5
4	Change zoning to require light industrial uses in certain areas of the city.	Preservation: greater density doesn't necessarily compliment character.	3
5	Expand scholarships and the number of slots in quality early education programs with a focus on low income families, which will facilitate workforce participation for adults and positive educational outcomes for children.	Diversify staff on early education programs to match demographics of the city	3

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
6	Explore financing mechanisms (e.g. low-interest loans, increment financing, land trust) to support the industrial economy through infrastructure funding or land assembly, supporting firms that provide light industrial jobs, and encouraging the development of a manufacturing incubator space.	Tough given land area & price	3
7	Assess the training and education needs of low- and moderate-income residents to determine readiness to access existing industry-focused training programs and inform design of new programs. Design new programs and implement strategies based on the recommendations of the needs assessment.	Equity: develop business opportunity & education fund modeled on Seattle to help minority enterprises comply with regulations	1
8	Undertake targeted business recruitment efforts to attract firms that offer low barrier-to-entry jobs with relatively high wages and job training opportunities, which could encompass many jobs in light industrial districts.	Support RSTA's outreach meeting efforts	4
8	Expand existing industry-focused training programs to incorporate pre-vocational education that addresses barriers preventing residents from accessing training or “earn and learn” opportunities.		3
10	Explore mechanisms to facilitate site assemblage to support targeted commercial development in Alewife.	Support small local independently owned & operated businesses.	2

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
11	Provide funding for STEAM internship opportunities for Cambridge students, and work in collaboration with local business and academic institutions to develop strategies for implementation.	Reduce the number of "branches" a business may have to be considered "small". Tap into the CRLS alum network to establish directory, ways to access alumnae for mentorship, intern/job inquiries, relocation advice.	4
12	Develop a program to provide ongoing mentorship to match new and experienced underrepresented entrepreneurs, support peer-to-peer learning, and help them access City resources.		
13	Explore additional opportunities to ensure equitable internet access	The recommendation to "explore" avenues to digital equity is another step backwards for the City. The Broadband Task Force made specific recommendations to actually address digital equity. The City Council adopted a policy order that sets specific goals and timelines.	3
14	Expand capacity and funding to provide additional "earn and learn" opportunities with local employers for Cambridge residents, training to help current employees advance to the next level of employment, and partnerships for employers to hire graduates of City-supported workforce development programs.		1
15	In large developments, require ground-floor commercial spaces be of a small size aligned with the needs of new and small businesses.		

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
16	Increase frequency of capacity buildings sessions to MWBEs on the public procurement process.	MWBE- insider jargon? What's this?	

Mobility

General comments:

- To whatever extent people will continue to own motor vehicles, road configurations should not overly cause congestion.
- Sign on to the shared mobility principles for Livable Cities.
- Pick up/ Drop off zone in central to get Ubers out of the bike lane.
- Create walking school buses as an alternative to diesel school buses.
- Need shovel ready bike infrastructure plan.
- More parking for mass transit coming into Cambridge Rt 2.
- Convince police to enforce traffic lights against bicycles.

Action Comments:

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
1	Change zoning to allow low maximum parking requirements near transit nodes and in key squares and corridors, with lowered parking requirements citywide, while balancing impacts of parking spillover on residential streets.		3
3	Undertake a detailed feasibility analysis of bicycle network vision as presented in the Bicycle Plan.		1
4	Finalize a Transit Strategic Implementation Plan to create a high-quality transit experience in the city.	Bus lanes, transit signal priority.	1

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
5	Update the Citywide Pedestrian Plan.	Disability/elder communities require greater consultation; brick walkways highly hazardous, snow removal requires improvement.	4
6	Collaborate with the MBTA to provide more corporate and other pass options to expand the market in Cambridge		
7	Partner with surrounding communities to create multi-jurisdictional BRT/bus priority routes, for example, collaborating with MassDOT and Boston on Route 1 improvements, with Watertown on Route 71 and Route 73 improvements, with Arlington on Route 77 improvements, and with MassDOT and the MBTA on Alewife bus priority for all routes entering and exiting.		4
8	Collaborate with the MBTA to provide more corporate and other pass options to expand the market in Cambridge.		
9	Create incentives & new loading zones that encourage large trucks to deliver off-peak.		2
10	Initiate peak period pricing in loading zones to ensure that trucks find curb space without double parking.	Need to weigh impacts on street level retail.	2
11	Create an impact fee on new development proportional to a project's vehicle traffic generation to support multimodal infrastructure and safety improvements.		2

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
12	Create policies for flexing curb regulations using new sign designs, pricing, and electronics in order to better accommodate loading, bike parking, transit lanes, and shared-ride or autonomous vehicle loading within business districts at times of increased demand.		
13	Implement demand-based pricing for all parking meters owned by the City of Cambridge to improve parking availability for those driving while incentivizing the use of other modes.		1
14	Require vehicles owned by the City and companies contracted with the City to have truck sideguards and other vehicle safety devices that reduce the likelihood of pedestrian and cyclist fatalities.		
15	Restructure the City's resident parking permit program to reflect a balance between people who use parking and people who use other modes, including: (a) Increasing the resident parking permit fee (can be combined with a discount for low-income residents and grandfathering of existing recipients); and (b) Introducing an escalating fee scale, so that each additional permit at a given address is more expensive.	Monthly and graduated cost per car; higher fee if you have off-street parking spot	2
16	Increase enforcement of truck violations.		

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
17	Expand citywide pedestrian and bike wayfinding between key destinations such as transit nodes, bikeshare locations, and community resources like libraries, retail areas, and parks.		2
18	Increase funding to improve intersection safety in locations with high rates of crashes.		1
19	Build a pedestrian, bicycle and transit connection across the railroad tracks connecting the Alewife Quadrangle to the Triangle.		3
20	Analyze consolidated neighborhood delivery pick-up spots which can minimize excessive door-to-door deliveries and offer reduced shipping costs.		
21	Develop a policy to allocate space within public rights-of-way to balance cars with sustainable modes of transportation.		1
22	Investigate working with nearby drivers' education programs to enhance curricula and offer mobility education workshops.		
23	Collaborate with the MBTA on bus service planning to support bus priority initiatives, particularly in underserved areas, and advocate for additional service.		5
24	Collaborate with the MBTA to effectively implement Automatic Fare Collection, which will enable off-board fare payment and all-door boarding on key corridors, reducing delays.		

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
25	Work with MassDOT to advocate for urban rail on the Fitchburg Line.	Work with Massport on Grand Junction railroad	1
26	Study ways to incentivize smaller sized trucks.		
27	Develop an implementation plan and increase funding to complete gaps in the Bicycle Network Plan, in order to create a completely connected citywide network of high-quality citywide infrastructure.	Separate bike lanes from sidewalks- - Vassar, One Broadway. Where there are shared paths, be sure bicyclists understand & respect rules. Enforce rules for bicyclists please.	3
28	Work with regional partners to study a Charles River ferry or water taxi service.		5
29	Encourage and incentivize sustainable transportation by City employees through increased transportation benefits and programming.		1
30	Commit funds to improve pedestrian comfort and safety on key streets and paths that connect the open space network, and keep them well-maintained with periodic renovations.		1
31	Expand and increase funding for marketing of sustainable transportation modes within the city to encourage broader participation, with a focus on better translation and interpretation services.		

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
32	Display real-time information at City buildings, in locations near mobility services, and on City websites to expand the availability, accessibility, and visibility of transit, bikeshare, and carshare services.		2
33	Increase funding to improve multimodal access to key public facilities such as schools, parks, community centers, recreation centers, and libraries by adding crosswalks, bus shelters, protected bike lanes, and bike parking.		
34	Install co-located carshare, bikeshare, and transit nodes in areas that are currently underserved to help reduce automobile traffic.		1
35	Prepare for the introduction of autonomous vehicles by developing policies that address equity and safety, and ensure that autonomous vehicles are shared and electric.		
36	Prepare transportation infrastructure to be resilient to periodic flooding, possible salt water contamination, and high temperatures associated with climate change by relocating mechanical and electrical equipment and introducing more passive cooling features.		2
37	Advocate for the MBTA to conduct a vulnerability assessment of all transit facilities in Cambridge, primarily the Red Line.		1

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
38	Collaborate with the MBTA to review and modify bus layover locations for any increased efficiencies.		
39	Expand the Safe Routes to School program to ensure all students receive pedestrian, transit, and bicycle education and are encouraged to use active transportation to commute to school.		1

Climate and Environment

General Comments

- Build more parks
- Require environmental impact study for each new development and use to offset costs
- Require mature shade trees, not ornamental trees & maintenance plants. How else do we get a tree canopy north of 300/year?
- Build more parks with trees, not saplings
- Consider school grounds as potential to expand green spaces in city/natural oasis and learning areas
- For the envisioned change for Velluci Plaza, be sure there are trees, greenery and sufficiently permeable ground surface
- Include sustainability as a factor in all historical commission decisions

Action Comments:

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
1	Establish a cool roof requirement for new construction in all zoning districts	Go beyond "cool roofs"	1
2	Require electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new buildings		2

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
3	Require new developments to submit a waste management plan to ensure adequate space for recycling and organics infrastructure.		3
4	Specifically serve low-income/high-vulnerability individuals and public housing residents with targeted preparedness and outreach programs (CCPR)		5
5	Install high-visibility electric vehicle charging stations at publicly accessible locations		2
6	Leverage new communication technologies to alert residents and workers, by geography, of risks in the event of an emergency (e.g. text message)		
7	Participate in statewide working groups to develop safety and performance codes and standards for energy storage systems. Once established, adopt those codes locally.		1
7	Participate in statewide working groups to develop safety and performance codes and standards for energy storage systems. Once established, adopt those codes locally.		
8	Study regulatory barriers and identify potential leverage points and sources of incentives for adaptive retrofits for existing buildings (utility placement, floodable ground floors, etc.).		

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
9	Study the feasibility of different programs to incentivize trash reduction that does not have a disparate impact on low-income communities		
10	Study Cambridge's greywater supply assets and non-potable demand		1
11	Develop a zero emissions transportation plan, addressing both mode shift and zero emissions vehicles		2
12	Mandate and enforce residential and commercial food waste diversion	Extend producer responsibility models, especially the Dutch Packaging covenant, to encourage system-wide waste reduction	
13	Procure 100% of municipal electricity from renewable sources		3
14	Institute commercial waste zones with reporting requirements		
15	Purchase additional land reserved to be used as open space and prioritize locations that improve open space connectivity.	Urban wild/forest expansion needs to be included in definitions of open space. Implement microforests & native planting/wild areas in existing parks for education, biodiversity, health. Converting golf course into forest, clubhouse into urban nature learning facility for families/students expands tree canopy, provides flood retention protects watershed/water quality near Fresh pond.	2

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
16	Maximize recycling rates across all sectors by stepping up enforcement and education		1
17	Establish a coordinated outreach and engagement approach regarding environmental programs and issues	Create environmental education staff to promote ecological learning across city and disparate green spaces	4
18	Develop disaster preparedness plans at the neighborhood level in conjunction with neighborhood organizations, service providers, public housing residents, and other vulnerable populations.		3
19	Streamline existing efforts to expand access to energy-efficiency funding and technical assistance, including supporting expanded use of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) to finance retrofits.		1
20	Implement recommendations from the Urban Forest Master Plan	Emphasize equity on urban canopy-ensure mature trees are protected on low income areas, encourage more green roof/wall deployment.	2
21	Offer a density bonus incentive through zoning for net zero projects		4
22	Add recycling bins around city in places where there are only waste bins	No recycling bins on Hampshire Street; require businesses like Dunkin Donuts to have recycling bins. Put recycling bins at senior center	5

Urban Form

General Comments

- Pearl St in Central Square needs paving/ beautification.
- Restore pedestrian connection behind Museum of Science, currently blocked by parking garage.
- Concerns regarding sound levels near railroad crossings, safety measures needed at intersections especially if near residential neighborhoods. Currently an issue with the purple commuter line on Sherman St. whose quiet zone statues have expired.
- Clarify things like "retail" so as not to allow things like the new Amazon "locker" mailroom.

Action Comments:

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
1	Adjust existing zoning in residential districts to be more compatible with prevailing patterns of development, including building setbacks, maximum heights, parking requirements, and uses.	<p>What does this mean? Does it enable or burden more housing?</p> <p>Change zoning to prohibit labs next to residential.</p> <p>No. Harvard Sq. is too dense already.</p> <p>Preservation?</p>	
2	Adjust existing zoning near transit nodes to allow greater density while complementing the character of the surrounding area.	<p>Mutually exclusive, preservation piece missing.</p> <p>Which things are zoning & which are guidelines? Drop the phrase "development standards" - not clear.</p> <p>Greater density should only be allowed for residential not commercial.</p>	1
3	Allow the maximum height of mixed-use projects with active ground floor uses to be increased in order to achieve taller ground floor spaces.	<p>Is the new development supposed to be similar to the nearby well-established districts?</p>	1

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
4	Prohibit parking and vehicular loading and service between buildings and the street, and prohibit curb cuts unless the parcel only has frontage on the corridor, the frontage is no less than 40 feet wide, and the garage entrance is no more than 20 feet wide.		
5	Eliminate minimum parking requirements for development along the corridors.	Universalize elimination of minimum parking requirements.	4
6	Require developers to install a minimum number of trees, as determined by the corridor character zones and the length of the parcel frontage.	Develop green spaces to harmonize such intersecting areas of business, residential, etc.	7
7	Require primary building entrances to be located on the corridors to create visual variety and to encourage the mixing of building residents, shoppers, and passers-by on the sidewalk.		2
8	Allow greater zoning flexibility for affordable housing.	Maybe.	1
9	Update the citywide urban design objectives in the City's zoning ordinance to reflect Envision Cambridge recommendations.		2
10	Review and simplify the various elements of project review established by Article 19 of the zoning ordinance to provide a clearer set of procedures.	No terraces.	1
11	Amend development standards to encourage balconies, roof terraces and decks, and projecting bays to overlook streets and other public spaces.		2

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
12	Establish guidelines to promote the addition of public pathways on large development sites where they would create desired neighborhood pedestrian and bicycle connections.		5
13	Establish citywide guidelines for programming, design, signage, and maintenance and operations of publicly accessible private open space.		3
14	Allow developers to contribute to a fund for open space in areas where a need for such space is identified but it cannot be reasonably provided on-site.	So money can buy their project? Needs Oversight.	5
15	Establish development standards to promote a continuous street wall on commercial corridors, including uniform standards for front setbacks and building façade lengths that are compatible with the established patterns of the area.		2
16	Establish public realm design guidelines for street infrastructure, landscaping, trees, seating, and public art, to result in a consistent, though varied, family of materials and street furnishings that can provide a greater sense of continuity between open spaces		2
17	Incentivize flexible community space in private and institutional developments.		

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
18	Establish development standards to promote street-activating uses (such as retail) on ground floors, including minimum ground-floor heights, limitations on the frontage length occupied by lobbies and other non-active uses, standards for the frontage length of individual storefronts, and requirements for smaller-sized commercial or community spaces in larger buildings.		
19	Establish design guidelines for all commercial corridors that include a requirement for activating design elements along the street wall, including signage, awnings, frequency of entrances, and breaks in the building facade.		1
20	Streamline the approval process to allow more street-activating elements in or above the public way, such as awnings, canopies, street furniture, etc.	No.	
21	Develop design guidelines for as-of-right affordable housing development.	No.	1
22	Establish a consolidated set of citywide urban design guidelines based on development types or design themes. These guidelines should respect historic context while allowing for design flexibility.	No.	

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
23	Create clear design- or performance-based guidelines to address the environmental impacts of new development in areas likely to see significant change.		2
24	For larger-scale projects, allow applicants to present initial design concepts to the Planning Board for pre-application advisory review.		
25	Review designated areas of Special Planning Concern and recommend updates to the geographies that are included in this designation.		
26	Continue to update area and neighborhood-specific design guidelines to ensure that new developments' urban design outcomes complement their neighborhood context and the review process is more predictable to stakeholders and developers.		1
27	Partner with the private sector and community groups to provide, sponsor, and contribute funds or in-kind assistance to the maintenance and programming of the public realm including plazas, open spaces, sidewalks, and recreational facilities.		2
28	Clarify the development review process by publishing a process diagram to clearly articulate requirements and expectations at every step.		

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
29	Prepare a streetscape/landscape character master plan that identifies different character types, determines desired uses and setbacks, and sets guidelines for types of landscaping, building frontages, etc.		
30	Conduct a citywide assessment to determine where new public or publicly accessible open space should be expected as part of redevelopment projects, when the amount of land area can accommodate such spaces.		
31	Initiate district plans for specific areas to inform new zoning approaches and design guidelines that support the Envision Cambridge objectives.		
32	Build the open space, bicycle, and pedestrian connections to integrate the “Alewife Squares” into the fabric of the City (as recommended in the Alewife District Plan)		1
32	Allocate funds to convert paved traffic islands into green spaces, or reconfigure roadways to eliminate them.		3
33	Prioritize the planning and implementation of routes providing physical and visual connections to citywide open spaces and regional paths and trails, including the Charles River, Fresh Pond, Danehy Park, Alewife Reservation, and the regional greenway system.		1

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
34	Work with state agencies and other parties to encourage greater access and more active use of the Charles River and other state-owned parks and recreational areas, including tables and seating areas, canoe/kayak launches, boat rentals, public swimming, and restaurants and cafes.		2
35	Encourage open space and recreational facilities that serve a wide range of uses that reflect the needs and interests of Cambridge's diverse population, through expansion of the existing inventory, multiple uses of existing facilities, and creative programming.	Disability Council should be integrated on committees/planning groups in maximizing accessibility.	4
36	Upgrade existing open spaces and facilitate the creation of new open spaces to incorporate the principles of Universal Design.		1
37	Encourage developers to meet with the City's urban design team early in the design process to frame the essential urban design issues of a project, as defined by Envision Cambridge and other relevant plans and guidelines, before conceptual design commences.		1
38	Design and implement clear wayfinding, using signage and other means, for biking and walking routes to the City's open spaces and other key destinations.	Multi-lingual. Relax sign restrictions in some areas. For example, Central Sq. Some gaudiness is ok there.	1

Community Wellbeing

General Comments:

- Displacement risk analysis (See San Fran, Chicago, Boston)
- Where are the recommendations for young people outside of school?
- Provide access to commercial kitchen space or underutilized existing public commercial kitchens for use by startups, food producers, and community caterers.
- Encourage fun outlets for people of all ages, and especially young people-- ie. Arcades, batting cage, mini-golf, tiny storefront movie houses, etc.
- Explore shared gathering space- like "Eastie" in East Boston (more neighbor-shared).
- "Strong Mayor" form of government- strengthen & deepen community based planning & governance.
- Improve Health Care availability & quality.
- Create a staff or small department to connect the significant green spaces around the city-- "Emerald Bracelet" of Cambridge similar to "Emerald Necklace" of Boston.
- Create an outdoor bill of rights for children (see Austin, TX & San Francisco) that creates political will behind getting kids out into nature.
- Create a parks & recreation department with environmental health/wellness at core of its mission.

Action Comments:

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
1	Modify zoning to allow for live-work space for artists.		7
2	Revise permitting process for reserving parks/open space and holding block parties to eliminate barriers for underserved communities	How can we better use green/natural spaces in service of biodiversity/ education?	2
3	Procure a cloud-based database to track community engagement requests and develop a contact list that tracks stakeholder planning interests (i.e. CRM).		
4	Develop and implement a disability standard for web based services.		3

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
5	Expand safe and consequence free disposal of medication and drug paraphernalia, providing exchanges if necessary (i.e. sharps disposal).	Lobby for and implement safe injection sites (SIF).	1
6	Create a database of places that highlight Cambridge's history, traditions, and legacy, and publish a collection of walking routes based on those places.	Add for all cultures	3
7	Build partnerships with local non-profit and community organizations to develop additional year-round park programming for all ages.	Acknowledge and prioritize nature and non-manicured green space as a key component of health & wellbeing of community.	1
8	Streamline current engagement processes and develop a resource guide on engagement best practices outlining tools and techniques to increase public participation.	Actively canvass under represented communities.	2
9	Study alternative models of neighborhood representation and civic engagement that increase representation from underserved communities.	Study & implement alternatives.	4
10	Provide information to new residents on ways to access affordable grocery stores.	Allow incentives to address and encourage affordable grocery stores.	
11	Increase the number of public or publicly accessible restrooms, including all-gender bathrooms.		1

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
12	Provide funding for the creation of a Cambridge History Museum to connect historically significant locations.	Develop local oral history project with schools, collect other intangible historical materials. And cultures. Great idea!	3
13	Increase programming for community events at parks and squares, including culturally specific programming	Increase programming & funding.	
14	Hold a regular series of citywide conversations on race and equity.	Self-directed by marginalized populations local to the city. More opportunities for small local businesses in kiosks, etc. in public places. Share lessons learned & strategies. Only if it is done skillfully.	3
15	Provide consistent, high-quality, culturally appropriate translation and interpretation services, particularly for key City events or meetings		
16	Increase support to the Community Engagement Team, a multi-agency collaborative that reaches out to underserved Cambridge families and connects them to community events and resources, develops community leaders, and supports agencies in working with a diverse community, to train other departments to start similar programs.		2

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
17	Research and implement innovative and non-traditional engagement tools and partnerships, including use of technology and art, and meeting people where they are.		2
18	Prioritize outreach and promotion of city events in culturally specific publications.	Prioritize and provide funding for resources to fund culturally specific events.	
19	Expand City efforts, including targeted outreach and recruitment, to ensure diverse representation on City boards, commissions and advisory committees.		4
20	Invest in technology in additional meeting spaces to make meetings available for streaming online, including both high- and low-tech options (i.e. Facebook Live).	Partner with nonprofits like CLN that specialize in this. More wireless access.	2
21	Develop a citywide racial equity plan and increase capacity to conduct ongoing racial equity analyses of new and existing policies, programs, services, procurement practices, and community engagement to evaluate how each proposal advances racial equity, addresses gaps in services and disparities in access, addresses institutional racism, and mitigates unintended consequences (i.e. Seattle Racial Equity Toolkit).		3
22	Improve access to community gardens and local food production.	Improve access to community gardens, farmers market, and local food aid value. Add food processing & production.	2
23	Improve access to farmers' markets.	Improve local food connection--vegetables, produce, meats, and seafood.	3

Board ID	Action	Comments	Tally
24	Sponsor an annual street celebration of Cambridge's history and communities	And cultures & diversity.	2
25	Increase participation in and more widely publicize results of the Cambridge Teen Health Survey and Middle Grades Health Survey to track patterns of youth physical activity		
26	Conduct an inventory of publicly accessible indoor meeting spaces, including the hours, capacity, location, and contact information for each space, and make available to public.	Public computers? Preload with software/adobe/office.	5
27	Create a program that pairs artists with vacant spaces waiting for tenancy or redevelopment for pop-up shops, studio space, or other artistic use.	The Foundry should be all artists work & live space because it already has industrial strength interior. Add non 5c art organizations; they are waiting for space too.	5
28	Implement an educational campaign about mental/behavioral health to destigmatize mental illness, increase awareness of substance abuse prevention, and promote existing mental/behavioral health services in Cambridge.	How can we better incorporate nature-based programs in green spaces to promote health/mental health goals?	3
29	Connect vulnerable populations, including elderly, LGBTQ+, homeless, immigrant, parent, and youth populations to mental/behavioral health prevention, screening, and treatment programs (i.e. Homeless Outreach Team, Injury Violence Prevention, Safety Net Collaborative).		5