

On Wed, Apr 1, 2020 at 9:57 AM Bjorn Poonen wrote:

Dear Cambridge Redevelopment Authority:

Regarding the proposals for the Kendall Square Plaza:

1. There are safety concerns regarding a gas fire pit that would have to be addressed. It is recommended that gas fire pits be at least 10 feet from any building, that they be not accessible to children, and that they not be used on windy days. Given the latter two concerns, who would control access? My feeling is that the small amount of comfort some might gain from the fire pit does not justify the potential for accidents. And would the carbon monoxide produced rise up to the roof garden, or would it disperse quickly enough not to be an issue? This should be studied. (And as for a *wood-burning* fire pit, it should definitely be ruled out, because of the well-documented health hazards from the particulate matter produced.)
2. As I wrote earlier, the lighting of the buildings seems inappropriate given that many families will be living across the street. The light pollution is going to be disrupting their sleep, and it seems to provide no public benefit. If such lighting is to be installed at all, one should require it to be turned off by 10pm at the latest each night.

Best,  
Bjorn Poonen