



January 30, 2019

Mayor Cory Mason
City Hall - 730 Washington Avenue
Racine WI 53403

Dear Mayor Mason and Common Council:

The Douglas Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) has been working on a number of initiatives to beautify the corridor. One of those initiatives, identified in 2015, was to create a small park in a vacant lot owned by the City of Racine, at the northeast corner of Hamilton Street and Douglas Avenue. This property was within the scope of the Douglas Avenue road reconstruction project. The DOT had committed enhancement funds to the area and DPW had already created designs that would have made the space substantially more attractive.

The Douglas Avenue BID board wanted to do more with the space. The BID was also cognizant of the need to improve lighting in that area of the neighborhood. The BID engaged the help of the UWM Community Design Center to build upon the existing plan. As a result, the BID salvaged 15 of the historic trolley poles from Douglas Avenue. The poles were shorted and repaired and installed along the walkway in the new park. Sixty-seven overhead light fixtures were strung that utilize reproduction LED bulbs that look like vintage Edison bulbs. A crushed granite walkway was added through the middle of the space and the large flowerpot that was previously located at the Karel Jonas statue was relocated to the center of the space. When the temperatures are sufficient, we will be putting a fresh coat of paint on the trolley poles.

Throughout the process of working on this project, we were reminded again and again that this was the site of the former Camelot Supper Club. Many have expressed fond memories of celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, corporate events and other special occasions there. The Camelot burned on New Year's Day, 1979. The Douglas Avenue BID would like to recommend to the Board of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services that the newly created park be named Camelot Square.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please keep me advised of any committee or Common Council meetings that I should attend.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Devin P. Sutherland".

Devin Sutherland, Manager
Douglas Avenue BID

Cc: Tom Molbeck, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services