

Beyond 50

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On Wednesday, June 7, we participated in a Design Review Workshop at Novato City Hall. Members of the Novato Design Review Commission (DRC) were present (Mark Schatz, Michael Barber, and Joseph Farrell) in addition to members of the Novato Planning Division (Steve Marshall and Vivek Damodaran).

Fr. John spoke first, communicating to the DRC that Nativity has received tremendous support from the neighborhood. Christ Kamages then gave a presentation highlighting the goals and aspirations of our projects. Members of the DRC and attendees from Nativity (Ed Keller, Steve Rouman, Dina Stathis, and Spiro Stratigos) then gathered for a roundtable discussion on the projects.

There were five areas of suggestions & refinement by the DRC:

- Roof line. It was suggested to make the roofline of the Narthex addition one level the entire way.
- Updated Landscape Plan. It was desired to have a clear understanding of the type and composition of the trees that will be landscaped.
- Bathroom connection. It was suggested that both bathrooms in the Narthex addition should be accessed through the hallway.
- Retaining Wall. The retaining wall should be stucco like the existing building and not be a living wall.
- Lighting. The DRC wanted to ensure that there would be no obtrusive lighting. CJK offered to provide appropriate graphics for the next DRC meeting.

Apart from these suggestions, all members of the DRC were extremely impressed with the



project and overwhelmingly supported how this project:

- Gives a welcoming front entrance.
- Creates a convenient drop off, particularly for seniors.
- Creates a physical presence through the increased size of the dome.
- Offers creative architectural features with the asymmetry of the front two bell towers

Additional comments from the DRC: "I'd vote yes on this today if I could." "It's a tremendous improvement and great use of the space." "It's an honor to be part of this project."

We are anticipating the public hearing for the official Design Review approval to be held on Wednesday, July 19 at Novato City Hall. After this approval, the plans will then need to be approved by the Novato Planning Commission and the Novato City Council.

We look forward to engaging with parishioners in the coming months through various workshops to involve the Parish community on this exciting progress. A special Parish Assembly will be held prior to submitting plans to the City of Novato for building permits.

Please refer to our website, nativityofchrist.org/strategic-planning-process to learn more about our progress and updates from the last several years.

