

Renovation Committee Minutes – July 27, 2019

Members Present: Br. Martin, Fr. John, Matt Gray, Dot Reid, Lisa Prendergast, Lisa Sims, Bill Weikel, John Castlen, Rick Ebelhar, Steve Weaver, Julie Renshaw

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with a delicious continental breakfast prepared by Isa and Rick Ebelhar, during which the Committee reviewed the format for the interviews of the architectural firms in Classrooms A & B of the Parish Family Center on Saturday, July 27, 2019.

Agenda

- Interview Hafer Design, Evansville, IN
- Interview Entheos Architects, Indianapolis, IN
- Interview Mitchell Allen Ritz, New Albany, IN

9:30 a.m. Hafer Design Interview

Presentation by Jack Faber of the Evansville office and Ket West of the Owensboro office

- A fully integrated design firm with over 40 employees
- Well prepared
- Did their homework
- Wanted the job
- Personable
- In his experience with Hafer, Br. Martin has found the integrated office to be a plus
- Thought they would have brought some actual concepts about Immaculate
- At St. Meinrad they have been very thorough, met frequently

10:30 a.m. Entheos Architects

Architects Michael Eagan and Kevin Stuckwisch presented an overview of their small firm, which focuses on faith-based institutional work

- Glass wall in their Sketch presentation was beautiful
- Lowering the altar idea showed they looked at the document we provided them
- Focused more on the inside of the church
- Outside ideas looked nice
- Liked idea of not closing in the area between the buildings
- Entheos did a lot more work and invested a lot more time than the other firms
- Came up with very interesting solutions for the various areas
- Really liked stations being mounted on stone or wood
- Impressed by amount of work – video production is a lot of work
- Felt they have a stronger theological background; they have got the theological concepts down
- Not a full-service architectural firm like Hafer
- Did a great presentation for a small firm
- A little farther away, but would be on site every two weeks; would construction be slower with a small firm?
- Impressed with the sketch they put together
- Their guesstimate of the cost of their design ideas was not that far off from what we talked about
- Liked the 3 doors in the glass wall
- During the tour, they noticed the ceiling immediately and had suggestions of what materials could be used
- Theological and aesthetic quality to our document

11:30 a.m. Mitchel Allen Ritz

David Allen is the principal architect; 35 years of experience; religious architecture is his passion gave his firm's presentation and Tomás Ramirez, architect in training, assisted David with the presentation

- Very talented
- Not sure what he would do with Immaculate
- Liked how he took our document and showed how he approached the areas on other projects
- Honest about the cost
- David, like Michael Eagan, is a practicing Catholic and understands the requirements of the liturgy
- “Evangelism through Architecture” – design speaks for itself
- “Word and Sacrifice are Harmonious on the Altar” – was a great way to say that
- Like his design style of accentuating the positive and dealing with the negative

DISCUSSION: Following the presentations, the committee members were leaning toward the two smaller firms. The Entheos architects David and Kevin hit on what the committee was thinking, were liturgically correct, and there was an overall good feeling about them. Items of concern were the smallness of the firm and the distance between Indianapolis and Owensboro, The committee found the architect from Mitchell Allen Ritz David Allen to be extremely talented and all were impressed with his designs for St. Pius. His firm of 10-12 people is slightly larger than Entheos. David made a special financial arrangement with St. Pius because they were worried about the cost. Br. Martin feels like all of the firms would be willing to work out a similar arrangement with us. Br. Martin cautioned that it is better for the parish if we have an idea of how much money we can raise before the design is done as opposed to just designing something and seeing if we can come up with the money afterward. We don't want to get to the point where everyone loves the design but you have to cut out things due to not being able to raise the funds. All three firms would provide drawings that would help with the capital campaign. The Hafer firm may have the best drawings only because they have the technology and staff on hand to do this. However, Br. Martin feels the two smaller firms would do well also.

The committee is leaning toward Entheos for a variety of reasons: (1) the amount of preparation for the meeting; (2) their presentation style; (3) their knowledge; (4) their experience; and (5) their honesty. Michael and Kevin seem to be able to handle liturgical and theological challenges or issues that could be raised by the parishioners and possibly unify the parish.

Br. Martin took a poll and confirmed that Entheos is the choice of the committee unless we hear something negative from the references. Fr. John, Bill Weikel, and Steve Weaver volunteered to call references and report back to the committee by email. Matt and Fr. John reported they met with the Finance Committee a couple of weeks ago. The Finance Committee thinks we can raise \$1.5 million as well as raise enough to build in a contingency fund of at least \$200,000.

Next Steps to Take:

1. Engage the architect after calling references
2. Inform the other architects we did not choose (Br. Martin will take care of this)
3. Make financial arrangements with architect
4. Have architect start initial plans (with initial drawings to be ready in two months)
5. While architect is working on the plans, hold open meetings with parish to educate them
6. At the last open meeting the initial schematic drawings will be presented to the parish
7. Start the capital campaign Fr. John will invite the congregation to recite the Renovation Prayer during mass

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. Fr. John closed with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Lisa Prendergast, Secretary