

Attachment D
Applicant Letter – SR #911



To: City of Billings
Planning & Community Services Department
514 North Broadway, 4th Floor
Billings, MT 59101

Re: New Hope Church of the Nazarene
25 Hilltop Road
Billings, MT 59105

Dear Zoning Coordinator,

Please consider our request for a special review for the proposed addition to our existing church facility located at 25 Hilltop Road.

1A. Our proposal is consistent with the goals and policies of the adopted Growth Policy as outlined below:

1. LAND USE ELEMENT

- Preservation of current neighborhood character and integrity
- Continuation of current sense of community
- Maintain attractive aesthetics
- Ensure natural and continued property functionality
- Provide self-contained off-street vehicle parking with ease of property access minimizing traffic flow
- Promote social foundation for a balanced neighborhood

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Strengthen neighborhood living
- Sustain high visual appeal of the neighborhood
- Generate efficient and safe property infrastructure
- Compliment city development
- Encourage city revitalization efforts
- Preserve neighborhood culture and living standards

25 Hilltop Road, Billings, MT 59105

(406) 252-5445 or (406) 259-1255

www.billingsnazarene.com

- Reflect quality standards of Billings living and future growth

3. AESTHETICS ELEMENT

- Preserve current neighbor assets
- Improve the overall neighborhood image
- Protect the quality of the existing property
- Maintain generous open space
- Increase green area development
- Retain low-key signage elements

4. NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

- Increase recreational use
- Maintain natural resource elements
- Protect the natural environment
- Utilize available fire protection resources
- Maintain safety and protection of life and property

5. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT

- Maintain high standards of site grooming
- Increase youth recreation availability
- Continue a strong "good neighbor" posture
- Provide convenient non-vehicular access
- Compliment Billings lifestyle

6. TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

- Promote traffic safety
- Integrate with intercity travel options
- Maintain safe and efficient traffic flow
- Preserve right-of-way accesses
- Minimize impediments to traffic flow
- Respond appropriately with traffic demands
- Maintain "open door" policy to public needs
- Coordinate project with "efficiency" priorities
- Maintain convenient access to bus transportation
- Promote improved safety and health-related functions
- Encourage use of bicycles and other alternative transportation

7. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

- Welcome public involvement
- Provide timely public notifications
- Maintain and improve overall community image
- Raise level of property values
- Maintain public access
- Ensure a high level of property maintenance
- Sympathetic toward neighborhood needs
- Engage conservation measures

- Encourage civic involvement
- Enforce development regulations
- Respond to community needs
- Share community and neighborhood vision
- Maintain neighborhood communication and problem solving

8. CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES ELEMENT

- Increase of property values
- Promote historic and cultural values
- Enhance the natural environment
- Support cultural appreciation

9. COMMUNITY HEALTH ELEMENT

- Prepare emergency plan for quick response
- Maintain clear and effective pedestrian and traffic routes
- Promote a sense of neighborhood pride and belonging
- Sensitivity toward children and related safety
- Participation in neighborhood crime prevention

1B. Need for proposed addition:

This property is the home of New Hope Church of the Nazarene. We are a new congregation formed through a merger of Trinity Church of the Nazarene and First Church of the Nazarene, both previously of Billings.

Trinity initially purchased this property in 1972 and has always sought to be a positive influence in the neighborhood. With the resulting merger, New Hope has renewed our vision to serve the community by showing them the love, mercy, grace, compassion, and forgiveness available from God through Jesus Christ.

Our existing facility was constructed in 1976 and is in need up upgrade in order to make it more attractive to the community, more functional for our congregation, and more accessible to those persons with physical handicaps. We would like to provide a fresh, new appearance for the community and create additional space for folks to fellowship before and after our services.

With God's blessing, our congregation will also undergo substantial growth in the future, requiring the future addition of new Worship, Fellowship, and Christian Education space. Our belief is that God would have us plan now for the increases we will see in coming years.

Members at New Hope would like to renew and continue our efforts to provide services to the community that are greatly needed and fully accessible and easy to use. We believe that the proposed addition(s) will give our building a much-needed visual renovation and provide an updated, attractive structure for the community and our congregation to enjoy for years to come.

1C. Serving the public:

We believe that the Church is called to serve not only its members, but also the community surrounding it. With our proposed renovation(s), we expect to be better able to serve the needs of the community. Our congregation has been a fixture on Hilltop Road for many years and we want to remodel our facility to improve our appearance and show the neighborhood that we share in the pride in our community. We fully intend to retain "green space" to be used by the church and the community for recreation and events to the benefit of Billings.

With the opening of the Aronson access, bypassing Alkali Creek, our corner lot has become a higher profile area for passing traffic. The proposed renovations will provide a "face lift" that we believe will improve our outward appearance and enhance the beauty of the neighborhood for all concerned.

1D. Intended use of the property:

Our initial proposed remodel will provide an updated look, as well as increased fellowship space for use before and after meetings. It will also make the facility more accessible for members and visitors with physical handicaps. The existing stairwell will be straightened and a chair lift will be installed for accessible access to the lower level. In addition, restrooms will be added to the main level that will be fully handicapped accessible.

The future proposed addition will provide for the continued growth and development of our congregation within the neighborhood and greater community. The existing facilities will be connected to a new building to the East that will provide a new Worship space, additional Fellowship areas, and classrooms for Christian Education. As God blesses us with greater numbers, New Hope can use the additional space to impact the community in a greater way.

New Hope is working now to consider these future plans so that all of the renovation and construction will be complementary and will further enhance our contribution to the community.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. JD Shanahan