



Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance

* The New Facility Newsletter *

April 16, 2009

AACTMAD is making great progress on the New Facility Project at Concourse Drive. The Facility Committee has worked with an architect on a preliminary set of building drawings and received bids by prospective builders. This process will help identify the cost of the various parts of the project so the Committee can refine the scope of the project to ensure it is achievable financially and logistically. Some of the work will be completed by a builder and some can potentially be done by work teams of volunteers from the dance community. Some of the work needs to be completed in the short term so AACTMAD can begin to use the New Facility as soon as possible, and some of the work can be completed over a longer time frame determined by AACTMAD's cash flow and available volunteer efforts.

A very important step in moving forward on AACTMAD's New Facility at Concourse Drive in Pittsfield Township is to have Pittsfield Township Planning Commission's approval of AACTMAD's intended use. Although non-profit organization use is explicitly permitted in the Business Park zoning, the assembly use for dance events requires special use permission similar to that required for a church or for other public assembly spaces. Appropriate applications were filed with the township with AACTMAD's specific use as:

"Office/storage/archives/warehouse/gathering/meeting/training/participatory membership activities related to traditional music and dance, including social activities for membership recruitment."

The following detail about AACTMAD's intended use was provided to the Township.

Office space: The space will be AACTMAD's corporate offices of for typical non-profit business functions of bookkeeping and administration.

Storage: Besides business and accounting files, AACTMAD maintains a collection of materials, supplies, and equipment in support of its mission to preserve and promote traditional music, dance, and

song, such as music and song books, collections of dance instructions, recordings, videos, and costumes. Other storage needs are tables, chairs, sound equipment, and supplies to support events such as Dancing in the Street and Dawn Dance. (These large events are held at other locations and will not be relocated to the Concourse space.)

Gathering/Meeting: AACTMAD will conduct monthly board and committee meetings as well as its Annual Membership Meeting. Workshops and educational presentations will be held occasionally. Participatory traditional music and dance events are proposed for this space, and these are attended primarily by AACTMAD members, typically 80-90% members and 10-20% guests.

Schedule of Participatory Events: AACTMAD's typical calendar of participatory events includes: Tuesday evening: English Country Dance; Friday evening (twice/month): Beginner-friendly swing dance; Friday evening (once/month): Advanced English Country Dance; Saturday afternoon (twice/month): Pittsfield Open Band; Saturday evening (twice/month): Beginner-friendly Contra Dance; Sunday afternoon (weekly): Morris Dance rehearsals.

On April 16, the Pittsfield Township Planning Commission voted **unanimously** to grant our special use permit to conduct our activities at 4531 Concourse Drive.

The next step is to finalize the scope of the project with the Pittsfield Building Department and get final bids from the builders. AACTMAD is working hard on the various very important financial and logistical matters, as well as on communication with members and committees, fundraising, management issues for the New Facility, and a co-ownership path for the Concourse building.

Questions? Contact Nawal Motawi, Chair of the Facilities Committee at nawalandglen@tds.net, or Mark Hillegonds, AACTMAD President at mhillegonds@comcast.net.