

Recycling "Center" Move to Trades Center By Shirlington Civic Association | December 15, 2016



[photos: Trades Center tour 2016-11-13.jpg; Trades Center recycling(3).png - use full size photos; don't post photo file names]

On September 27, the County requested a Use Permit to move the Recycling Center now at Columbia Pike and Four Mile Run Drive to the Trades Center. A final vote of the County Board was scheduled for early November.

This news upset many residents, and many questions were raised. The SCA pressed hard for a delay in the County Board vote to allow the community to get more information. We are glad to say that the County Manager's Office cooperated with us, and the vote was delayed.

On Wednesday, November 2, Solid Waste Bureau staff presented to a specially convened meeting of the SCA. (Sorry for the lack of notice on this one!) On Sunday, Nov. 13, representatives of most of our eight Homeowner Associations (HOAs) and Board members toured the Trades Center campus, including inspection of the new site for recycling.

It turned out that this "Recycling Center" (which it must be called to satisfy a state rule that each jurisdiction has a certain number of these) amounted to 2 to 3 medium size dumpsters, and they will occupy approximately two parking spots in the center of Trades. No new structure, no significant increase in noise, traffic, or smell is anticipated (no food is allowed). Much of this recycling already comes to Trades from the current location.

On Monday, December 12, the SCA submitted a letter of no objection to the County Board. The Board approved the Use Permit on Tuesday, December 13.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/News/Articles/2016/County-Board-Approves-Recycling-Center-Move-to-Trades-Center>

The county tried to do this too fast and put its good relations with the community at risk. We needed not to be just told. We needed to understand what was happening in our neighborhood. Part of this is County staff getting used to having a civic association wrapped around the Trades Center. They are, however, very glad that we exist. Thanks to all who helped with this!