



CITY OF TONKA BAY
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ITEM NO. 8C

Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Lindy Crawford, City Administrator
Date: August 25, 2015
Re: Monument Signs

Since the July 14th meeting staff has been working with Hennepin County and the property owners of Tonka Village to determine the best location for a monument sign on the south end of Tonka Bay.

Staff has confirmed with Hennepin County that the County holds drainage and utility easements all along the intersection of Manitou Road and Smithtown Road. The City could place a monument sign at this location without a permit from the County. However, the County holds the rights to use that land for drainage and utilities and if the sign were in the way for a project or maintenance the County could disrupt the sign. This would include demolition. There is also the potential that there are existing utilities underground for the fire hydrant and wiring for the traffic signal. The County would not recommend putting the sign in that location.

There are existing sight line easements that the County holds for the location in front of the landscaping along Smithtown Road at Tonka Village. The City (and Tonka Village) is not allowed to place a sign in this location.

While Tonka Village would be open to working with the City to locate a sign at the intersection of Manitou Road and Smithtown Road, the property owners do not wish to work with the City on adding a monument sign to the existing Tonka Village sign. This sign was just redesigned this summer.

Staff has come to the conclusion that the best location for a monument sign would be the retaining wall along County Road 19 located next to the northwest side of the Tonka Village parking lot. Staff has confirmed with the Public Works department at Hennepin County that the City is responsible for maintaining the retaining wall, so if the City wanted to add lettering (signage) to the wall it would be fine to do so. Staff has attached

an excerpt from the retaining wall agreement as well as signage examples that could be attached to the retaining wall.

Recommendation

While staff understands the importance of citizen engagement on this project, staff is recommending placing lettering on the retaining wall and conducting citizen engagement for the design of the north entrance monument sign. Staff believes the lettering will be more cost effective and easier to maintain over the years.

Next steps:

1. Determine placement for the south monument sign location.
2. Find an acceptable monument sign design.
3. Obtain quotes on the design and construction.

Council Action

Discuss and determine placement for south monument sign location.

Attachments

Hennepin County Retaining Wall Excerpt
Retaining Wall Lettering Examples/ Retaining Wall Location