

Venice Aviation Society, Inc.

NOTAM

Dear Fellow VASI Members,

June 8, 2006

This NOTAM is intended to update you on airport matters. The next newsletter will be published in late June and no newsletter will be published in July.

NOTAM topics:

- i Rehabilitation of runway 13/31
- i VNC Master Plan Update
- i Airport Advisory Board / Anti Airport Activities

Rehabilitation of runway 13/31:

A grant of about \$ 3,600,000 was received for VNC from FAA AIP funds this week. This is the largest grant ever received by the airport and finally after at least ten years of effort runway rehabilitation will begin.

Because the city was permitted to issue a bid proposal while the grant application was working its way through federal channels there is a contract waiting for city council approval during its June 13th meeting.

APAC Southeast was the winning bidder and work should begin before July. The work is scheduled to be completed within 120 days. During the repair of the intersection of 13/22 APAC will work 24hours a day and must complete that section within 80 hours. IF the weather cooperates expect completion before November. The runway will remain 150 feet wide and the runway edge lighting system, to include replacing the current cable in ground system with a cable in conduit upgrade and other safety improvements are included.

Florida Dept. of Transportation will also provide \$ 93,000 toward the project and the Airport Enterprise Fund will contribute the same amount.

The success of the grant request is primarily due to the very detailed and arduous work of Fred Watts. Marty Black fully supported his efforts and both men deserve a special "thank you" from all of us.

VNC Master Plan Update:

The public input phase for the Master Plan update is almost over. There will be one more public "workshop" this summer. Once the date is known plan on attending because your individual voice is absolutely necessary to help overcome the anti everything faction that gets all the press.

You can also attend Airport Advisory Board Meetings to provide Master Plan input. If you prefer, send an e mail to the airport manager (fwatts@ci.venice.fl.us) to get your ideas on the record. Remember if you think something is needed, a joint use firehouse for example, then make that desire known. If it is not in the master plan it will not happen.

Airport Advisory Board / Anti Airport Activities:

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the City Ordinance that established the Airport Advisory Board (AAB). Please read Sec. 14-38 Purpose and Duties. Also note in Sec. 14-52. Powers and duties of city manager that his actions are subject to city council approval. This “new “ AAB replaced a board that rarely meet, had members with little aviation expertise and was inept at moving the airport agenda forward.

The VASI Board met with individual City Council members to lobby for the establishment of the current AAB. The AAB has seven voting members, five are pilots. Three members have PhDs, one member has two Master Degrees, and the other three have Master Degrees in fields such as Finance. Venice is very fortunate to have on the AAB the recently retired FAA Regional Administrator of the FAA New England Region.

Anti airport activists attack on a very broad front and seek every means possible to disrupt, delay and deny actions that benefit VNC. One of their latest ploys, used in letters to elected officials and federal agencies attacks the AAB as a “rubber stamp” of the city or city council or city manager or airport manager – take your pick. That assertion is false. They also complain that their comments are ignored. I know from first hand experience all comments and presentations made to the AAB are thoughtfully considered and often prompt future AAB activities.

The AAB provides a public forum for both pro and anti airport efforts. Board members drive the agenda of the meeting and confer frequently with members of the city council and city staff. Your public support of the airport at AAB meetings will counter the press coverage of the anti crowd who always show up and get on the record.

I look forward to seeing you at the airport, AAB meetings and our September meeting. Please feel free to contact me. Your feedback is very important and always welcomed.

Fly safe,

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