

President's Council of Hutchinson Island Initial Member Survey January–February 2019

A survey of President's Council of Hutchinson Island (PCHI) was conducted in late January to mid-February 2019. PCHI representatives were sent a computer-designed survey and asked to complete it either by themselves or after collaboration with their association boards. Twenty-two (22) surveys were returned with usable data, representing a 72.4% response rate.

Sample Demographics

Respondents answered a number of questions to establish baseline association with PCHI. The majority of respondents reported being association members (95.0%), with most reporting being an association board member (80.0%). When asked how many PCHI meetings they had attended over the last three years, most reported less than 10 meetings (68.4%). Respondents length of time living on Hutchinson Island ranged from less than 1 to 28 years, with 77.8% reporting being full-time residents. When asked if they had previously served on a PCHI committee, 90 percent or more reported not serving on one or more committees.

PCHI Performance

Respondents were then asked four questions regarding perceptions of PCHI performance, followed with a performance impact scale of 100 points. Respondents reported that PCHI performance was important or very important regarding island quality of life (79.0%; impact score of 70.42), safety (78.9%, impact score of 67.00), and island traffic (73.2%; impact score of 53.80). When asked about the PCHI Board's understanding of issues, 89.4% thought it important or very important and that the Board's bringing guest speakers and experts to meetings to discuss topics of interest to be important to very important (97.7%). Sixty percent reported being interested to very interested in having such speakers at meetings.

A series of questions asked respondents perceptions of PCHI's three committees and their responsibilities: Beach and Dunes, Governmental, and Communication.

Beach and Dunes Committee

When asked whether the PCHI has had an impact on our beaches and dunes, 84.2% said it has, but only 22.2% indicated they would be willing to serve on the committee. Almost 80% believed climate change is influencing our beaches and dunes, 68.4% said PCHI should affiliate with the Rivers Coalition, and 72.2% believed PCHI should support the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact. When asked, 52.6% said they would be interested in participating in a PCHI beach cleanup.

Governmental Committee

Respondents were split on whether the PCHI had any influence on county decisions regarding the island (44.4% thought it did; 55.6% thought it did not). When asked if they would be willing to participate on the Governmental Committee, less than 20% indicated that they would be willing to participate. Respondents were asked if the PCHI should focus only on things that directly affected Hutchinson Island, 72.2% thought it should with focus on island safety (77.8%), traffic (100.0%), crime (100.0%), but only 45.5% thought the focus should be on roads and sidewalks.

Communication Committee

When asked about how well the Communication Committee communicated with PCHI members, 68.4% felt it did; when asked to rate PCHI's communication to members on a 0 (terrible) to 100 (excellent) scale, respondents rated its communication as 72.3. When asked how they would like to receive PCHI communications, respondents indicated email was most preferable (90.9%), followed the PCHI website (www.pcofhi.com) (50%), a quarterly newsletter (36.4%), and postal mail (9.1%). As noted, respondents were open to having outside speakers talk at monthly meetings, but when asked how interested they were having guests or experts on relevant topics speak, only 60% reported being interested or very interested. Respondents were then asked to rate speaker/expert areas of expertise, they ranked interest areas from Legal experts on association legal changes and issues first (84.9%), followed by cable concerns (71.9%), Florida Oceanographic or other environmental-related organization (71.8%), and Florida Power & Light (67.3%). As with the other two committees, respondents were unwilling (94.7%) to serve on the committee.

Summary

The PCHI is perceived by its members to being important to Hutchinson Island. Although it is well-regarded, there are areas that need improvement. Future surveys will assess whether PCHI is moving in the right direction.