

## Constant Contact Survey Results

**Survey Name:** COTI Effectiveness Survey

**Response Status:** Partial & Completed

**Filter:** None

Jan 10, 2018 6:02:38 AM

### 1. How do you rate COTI's effectiveness on the following activities?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Sufficient	Effective	Very Effective	No Opinion
Informing Members on Important Sanibel Issues via E-mail	2 3%	4 5%	7 9%	23 29%	41 52%	2 3%
Providing Commentaries in Local Media	3 4%	3 4%	8 10%	28 35%	24 30%	13 16%
Providing Information on COTI Website	1 1%	1 1%	10 13%	26 33%	14 18%	27 34%
Commenting Before City Council and Planning Commission	1 1%	2 3%	6 8%	15 19%	34 44%	20 26%
Recruiting Candidates for City Council	2 3%	3 4%	5 6%	14 18%	13 16%	42 53%
Supporting Candidates for City Council	2 3%	3 4%	8 10%	17 22%	24 31%	24 31%
Supporting/Opposing Referenda Issues	3 4%	2 3%	5 6%	20 26%	36 46%	12 15%
Providing Annual Meeting Program	2 3%	1 1%	4 5%	25 32%	23 29%	24 30%
Engaging Members in COTI Work	3 4%	5 6%	8 10%	23 30%	17 22%	21 27%
Providing Public Forums on Key Issues	3 4%	6 8%	9 12%	19 24%	27 35%	14 18%

12 Comment(s)

**2. How often do you access the COTI website at www.coti.org?**

	<b>Number of Response(s)</b>	<b>Response Ratio</b>
At least once a month	9	11.3%
Sometimes but not frequently	44	55.6%
Never	25	31.6%
No Responses	1	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>

6 Comment(s)

**3. Would you be interested in attending periodic COTI member discussions about important Sanibel issues?**

	<b>Number of Response(s)</b>	<b>Response Ratio</b>
Yes, I'd be interested	52	65.8%
No, I would likely not attend	25	31.6%
No Responses	2	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>

14 Comment(s)

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### 1. How do you rate COTI's effectiveness on the following activities? - Comments

#### Answer

I don't know about most of these activities so cannot judge

I resigned from COTI because of a total lack of involvement by members--and COTI's support for the current city council, Mayor Ruane and the failure to oppose more development such as Doc Fords restaurant. COTI has not investigated the huge salaries of city employees nor has it insisted on performance evaluations. We need an independant 'Citizens Review Board' to overlook these issues. john raffensperger

I am only a frequent visitor to Sanibel over the years and do not keep up with city planning, political candidates or city council meetings.

As a Snow bird from PA, I am very happy with the info. put out there for us to see....thanks!

Please keep up your good work. Without COTI I am concerned that Sanibel will not be the same wonderful Island I have enjoyed for the past 30 years.

Thank you COTI.

██████████  
Thank you for your very valuable work. I am interested in the new Center 4 Life project. We need a new Senior Center. How can I help? ██████████

there are issues nobody seems to talk about

perhaps more informational discussions?

I would hope that a public forum by COTI would be held on the issue of building a new Center 4 Life for Island seniors.

a fine and needed organization

There are many people on Sanibel who are unaware of COTI's existence and they're not tourists.

I do not agree with COTI performing a recruiting function for political candidates.

### 2. How often do you access the COTI website at www.coti.org? - Comments

#### Answer

Guess we should do that

I count on you to mail all info to me that I need.

I will check it on occasion

I haven't in the past, but I certainly will do so now that I know about it!

Only when email is sent to us

The articles that appear are well thought out well written and sensible. I applaud the hard work and talent that goes into these articles!

### 3. Would you be interested in attending periodic COTI member discussions about important Sanibel issues? - Comments

#### Answer

I am often in Michigan

too damned old

Only if you allow participation by the audience. I am not interested in hearing more glowing comments about ruane et al.

One topic of discussion could be--making the rec center, library and other buildings hurricane shelters, rather than forcing citizens to evacuate--after all the city employees have scampered away, like scared rabbits to fancy hotels--at taxpayers expense.

I would be very interested if I was closer and could attend.

A snow bird who trusts the residents and officials to keep our paradise functioning....

I would like to get information on line from you.

Unfortunately my husband and I do not spend a lot of time on this beautiful island so we are unable to respond to these questions. Hopefully as we spend more time we will become more involved with the work of COTI. Thank you for all you do!

Depends on the issue.

Am currently not living all time, plan to retire in our home there.

Yes, conditional.

I live in Utah, house on Sanibel currently rented

i live in nm

More community outreach is needed so please make these discussions open to the public.

I think this can be an effective way to engage the entire membership in important issues.

#### 4. What do you think are COTI's greatest strengths? - Responses

##### Answer

Studying issues and reporting on its findings

Keeping beach water quality issues as a priority

Its historical role in defending the Sanibel Plan.

as a watchdog and alerting the population at large if an issue needs their support or opposition

COTI advocates for what I personally feel are the important issues our community faces.

community identity as a beneficent watchdog over the sanctuary side of Sanibel.

Representing what historically has been Sanibel and the issues that continue to be of importance....ie...traffic, limiting overuse of beaches, maintaining our Sanibel plan....

Presence and consistency in advocating

I don't know

? dont know of any

Keeping COTI's ear to the ground so that we know what is happening on the island.

With the huge growth around the area, COTI is playing an integral roll in preserving the Sanibel we have all come to love-nature galore, family friendly, and a peaceful environment. Too much development, water quality issues, and the disappearance of natural wildlife areas has impacted many cities in Florida we use to enjoy visiting.

Communication to the public.

Non partisan support ofSanibel mission

Committee members are credible and experienced. They are able to communicate on aq level I can understand.

Your dedication to the preservation of our Island.

public info

Knowledge of the issues.

The membership numbers.

Supporting the Sanibel Plan.

Active monitoring, communication and participation in City matters.

Maintaining the island plan and keeping an eye on city council

Focus on keeping Sanibel a liveable Community.

Standing up against commercial interests and rooting to keep Sanibel as envisioned by the founders.

Consistency, longevity,

Paying attention to what is happening on Sanibel and keeping the rest of us informed.

involved in what is important

Informing members of the issues and fighting on our behalf

well known, good enough publicity, good subject of private conversations, involve supporters and opponents

Keeping Sanibel City Fathers Honest by being a necessary watch dog

Its passion to keep the best for Sanibel and having terrific people working with you.

Passion and commitment to our island sanctuary mission. Proactive fact based advocacy on issues. Damn smart and dedicated folks. Effective communication to all stakeholders.

Informing citizens of the Caloosahatchee water releases and its impact on our Sanibel water and wildlife. Also insuring development conforms with the Sanibel Plan.

Keeping residents informed about important issues regarding the island.

Representation

advocacy

Actively promoting pSanibel Charter

It would be more effective if more residents knew more about what COTI stands for and the actions it takes.

It's leaders are its greatest strength

Information and representation

Keeping abreast of environmental, over-development issues.

The involvement in Sanibel's present and future, with an eye toward containment in terms of population and traffic.

keeping us informed by email

Tracking the actions of the Planning Board and the City Council as they relate to the City Charter.

protecting our barrier island

It's commitment to the Sanibel charter

Keeping membership informed.

Efc affairfective watchdog oer civic and envoronmental matters

Seem to address a variety of issues and concerns that affect condo associations.

Making certain folks know the importance of the "Sanibel Plan".

Making certain new residence understand the history of the "Sanibel Plan."

Historically, COTI was effective as a watchdog over City government. It seems to have lost its way.

being a watchdog for sanibel issues

It's members.

Watching over the original concept of what our island represents.

COTI provides a conservationist/pro-environmental voice in our community devoted to preserving the intent of the Sanibel Plan thereby protecting our "sanctuary island" from irresponsible development. In addition, their support of environmental issues that concern all Floridians is important statewide.

Monitoring proposed changes & keeping Sanibel as a sanctuary island, not a tourist destination

As the watchdog for our local governments. Local, county and state.

Its unwavering focus on the Sanibel Plan; the current leadership of COTI; the determination to keep improving COTI.

As advocates in protecting Sanibelâ

Focus on Sanibel Plan

#### 5. What do you think are COTI's greatest weaknesses? - Responses

##### Answer

Lack of members

N/A

Not enough members want to be actively involved.

don't know

I would like to see greater advocacy for the interests and rights of full-time residents.

-

Not fully understood

Not active enough in the off season. No social events. No fun.

see above

I do not keep up to know if there are weaknesses.

More communication via email. How about a "Weekly Update" on events that affect the year round residents of Sanibel?

No weaknesses.

NA

Not garnering local support

Getting members to respond to your surveys. If we are going to have a new Senior Center, we need more responses from the 65 plus aged members. This is a serious issue for the future of quality of life for the Boomers.

?

Recruiting a diverse board.

Not advocating enough and finding and supporting environmentalist candidates for City Council.

Could be more outspoken on water quality and traffic

Not sure the communication network is as strong as it might be.

support of issues without enough basic background information (basic physics background and the Dark Sky issue)

NA

I worry a little about continuity of knowledge and commitment as the years go by.

N/A  
not sure  
?  
Not well known in the community  
Can't think of any...  
Don't see any.  
None that I am aware of  
Involving members in its processes  
COTI seems far more oriented to Condo Associations that are large, resort -like and /or have many rental units. In other words more oriented to business like associations that cater to tourists. Key word is business.  
COTI seems to only be against things. Complains about problems, does not propose or become part of solutions. Taking this approach has narrowed COTI's constituency and weakened its voice.  
Not sure Iâ  
This question and some of those that follow are beyond my experience and involvement with COTI. Sorry  
Not enough people pay any attention to what COTI is doing  
I believe COTI should frame its position on a topic as either in support of or in opposition of a subject. To state that COTI has no opposition of a subject is irrelevant in my opinion. COTI should only support or oppose.  
Last year many of us were appalled at how far the City Center Plan got before being shut down. While COTI published a series of penetrating questions concerning this project that framed the issues well, I think COTI could have been more active in its opposition as the City Council took up the issue. I also think COTI could be more transparent.  
Need more discussion of issues with members

## 6. What actions do you think COTI should take to be more effective? - Responses

### Answer

Being more public with its positions  
Constant pressure on elected officials to stop the Army Corps of Engineers from discharging Lake Okeechobee water and polluting our beaches  
I think the discussion sessions mentioned above are worth a try.  
don't know  
I guess I believe COTI will need to be one more politically active both at the community and regional level, since there seem to be so many decisions made outside of Sanibel government that impact quality of life on this island.  
Proselytize new members, especially new residents.  
Looking to protect the people who work here from the island and off-island  
Have some social events. Get togethers. Neighbors meet neighbors. West end parties! East end parties? Boating parties. Anything to get people together and propound a little on the way.  
  
COTI is boring. It takes itself too seriously. A new name would help. Whatever happened to Sanibel Tomorrow?  
involve members, more frequent meetings to discuss issues and act more forcefully on issues such as traffic, variances, development and tourism  
Maybe discussing Sanibel's plans going forward on climate change and being proactive.

Again, I do not keep informed enough to know but

I hope they keep up the pressure and continue to inform on the water quality issues. We have been there several times with the "tea water" and it is not a pretty site particularly boating around the area you realize the true impact.

See # 5.

NA

Reaching out and re explaining its mission.

Bang the drum that the future quality of life for seniors...which will number 75 and over by 2040 as a majority population age..depends on a new Senior Center.

And affordable housing for those who serve the population is a must. CHR is leading the future on this.

Southwest Florida needs to be working on this, also.

Become more inclusive. Less "Cliquish".

Perhaps this is on the website but a periodic summary of key City issues and Council decisions. The local papers are very disappointing in their coverage of issues and decisions. Reading Council agendas and minutes help but these are usually after the fact.

?

Engage the membership in important issues

Fix #5

Seek more member input

Get more information out to those of us who are not fully engaged and aware.

I do not know !

N/A

not sure again

Address traffic problems from the residents point of view. We have just dropped membership in the Rec.Center because it is too hard to get to and return from by car and now even by bike paths that are becoming more crowded and dangerous.

TRAFFIC TRAFFIC TRAFFIC

I don't know your organization well enough to speak to this.

Keep articulating the concerns of COTI as they relate to preserving Sanibel.

Doing a great job

More public meetings on issues

Was glad to see that COTI was involved in trying to limit the number of large "event" that seem to have taken over the island. Traffic (and people) - car and bike - has become a major problem for the island. This has totally changed the "sanctuary" culture of the island - it's greatest asset. Focus on keeping this asset.

Finding and supporting new candidates for city office.

rethink its role in our community. COTI must be more than an organization that says no to everything.be willing to take a risk by working on and proposing real solutions.

perhaps ask members to contact government representatives regarding issues

Stopping the council from become to one sided toward to much change  
More stories on the front of the Sanibel papers  
Hosting discussions of Sanibel Issues; enhancing opportunities for Members to participate; more robust monitoring of City Council and Planning Commission and reporting back to COTI members.  
Traffic issues. Ban large Events which impact traffic.  
More issue discussion

## 7. What do you think COTI can best do to attract new members? - Responses

### Answer

see #6 above  
Progress on the above  
Does COTI still send welcoming letters to new property owners?  
Folks need to know how NOT supporting COTI can ultimately impact the quality of life and property values of residents and property owners.  
be enthusiastic, and on top of issues, but never  
  
negative.  
Use local newspapers....  
  
speak up at city council and planning commission  
Advertising  
Social events don't have to cost a lot.  
  
The Lion's Club and the Rotary don't attract because of their service. They attract because people get to meet people. You don't in COTI.  
  
It seems like a small elite club not a community organization.  
see above  
Most people come to Sanibel for its natural landscape and preservation. Maybe highlight this, and urge the need for islanders to be ever vigilant and proactive and get that message out!  
I received information during a visit, I believe it was during the Christmas activities 2-3 years ago. Until then I was not familiar with COTI. I feel that when visitors are given the opportunity to receive information, many will want to participate/join.  
Continue the out reach to the public.  
See #6  
Invite homeowners to introductory receptions to attract new members.  
High profile in keeping Sanibel environmentally A-1  
Welcoming new members to the Sanibel community.  
Blanket mailing?  
Stay relevant with comment and commentary.  
Not sure, more info out in the world?  
keep emailing  
Batter marketing... informing public of your organization and purpose.  
newspaper weekly column in Santiva, Island Sun, Islander, discussing email letters with comments, questions, criticisms.  
Continue to highlight key issues like water and traffic and point out opportunities for the community to get involved. Highlight these opportunities at all member discussion events.

more news articles

possibly an article(a repeat i am sure) on what COTI is and how it functions  
clear to the point messages

#### TAKE MORE ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS

Introductory letter/email to all new residents (you probably already do this?)

The survey you did recently was passed around at the Island Seniors Board meeting a few months ago when I was still on the Board. The Board has 9 members who are elected from the membership of Island Seniors. More than a few of our Board members were unaware of this wonderful survey. Publish the results of that survey in the local papers.

Keep publicizing its goals.

Pressure on Florida politicians to stop sending dirty water to our beaches

Increased communication

Reach out to smaller associations.

Good communications----maybe a lengthy newspaper article on the history and current relevance of COTI.

be more positive

Just keep up the good work

The periodic discussions (question 3) should be public. Making people more aware of what the issues are and what COTI is doing might work to attract new members.

More local newspaper articles about what you are doing and what you need help with.

Enhance transparency and create more opportunities for members to participate in COTI activities and Sanibel issues

I have friends who firmly believe that COTI is a leftist organization. This needs an image review and an effort to attract a more representative leadership.

Attend session for new residents

### 8. What do you think COTI can do to increase member participation? - Responses

#### Answer

see #6 above

progress on the above

Again, I think it is worth trying those discussion sessions. For some reason, that kind of thing is popular on Sanibel . . . .

don't know

Somehow I miss meeting announcements on a regular basis, but I bet this is my own fault.

be open and reactive. I have been rewarded for emails to you by prompt , thoughtful and courteous replies. You made me feel a part of your good process.

Wish I knew the answer to this----I recruit for other organizations

As above.

Ask members to bring written, prepared comments on specific issues to meetings such as. traffic, city management, restricting advertising for tourists, new development. the first meeting should be early in the season to get organized for the coming year and there should be monthly meetings and encourage, rather than discourage member participati.

Again, not being on island I do not keep up with current activities available.  
 See above  
 More meetings with members  
 I think members would welcome participation if they were asked.  
 ??  
 Provide opportunities for them to participate in a welcoming manner.  
 Find interesting/current discussion topics.  
 Use email to seek reactions to specific issues. Then follow up personally.  
 Identify jobs that members could do, estimate time involved, say who to contact  
 I can not tell how much communication there is now. I call or write.  
 See above  
 perhaps another meeting with lots of publicity  
 Keep us informed and encourage attendance (again, seems you do this. We are very part time and appreciate the ongoing information and attend when we can.)  
 I'll let you know after I start participating.  
 Pressure on Florida politicians to stop sending dirty water to our beaches  
 Increased communication  
 Have more programming that is relevant for individual condo owners and not just paid managers.  
 Communications.  
 Be more positive, solutions oriented.  
 Not sure. Some people just don't  
 Again, the periodic discussions mentioned in question 3 might be helpful in mobilizing members to become more active, particularly in regard to specific issues. Everyone always says, "What can I do?". Tell them.  
 Again, more newspaper (and other) stories about what you do.  
 Hosting discussion sessions concerning issues that can impact the Sanibel Plan.  
 Solicit articles from members relating to issues that can impact the Sanibel Plan.  
 Greater committee involvement

**9. In your view, what new activities and programs, if any, should COTI undertake? - Responses**  
**Answer**

,  
 stick to getting the water cleaned up - it is the most important priority  
 Those discussion sessions.  
 don't know  
 I think we need to pursue more resident beach parking. In reality, during season there is simply not enough A parking to go around.  
 stick to preservation issues for the island. those are too important to risk either dilution or attracting opposition from secondary issues.  
 Should we continue to pour tax money into more tourism?  
  
 Take continued stands on water pollution etc  
 Don't know  
 see above

Be a major proponent of natural preservation and limiting growth.  
I have not kept up with current programs.  
I think you are on top of things just communicate on a regular basis.  
Perhaps partnering with conservation and wildlife

interests to host events to familiarize residents with COTI.  
Periodic summary of Council decisions and upcoming issues.  
?

Perhaps occasional happy hours and invite members of the board of realtors or other influential groups.

Concentrate on the above and do it well.  
Current Council and planning Commission issues.

Initiate discussion on possible future issues.

Not sure

Really don't know enough to make informed opinions and suggestions

My old peeve : at night, light on almost all surfaces gets reflected, such as moon light. City tried to make darker street pavement, to reduce reflected car headlights, with very little end effect. Lots of other detail issues ignored in Dark Sky.

Seawall issues : seawalls are held in place by "rebar" steel rods which corrode, make wall fall in water

1) Remove the negativity of the signage all around the island. From driving onto the island, to the beach parking, etc. Put some positive feeling into the rules.

2) Promote the roundabout being discussed. They save a great deal of traffic delays and keep the traffic flowing.

not sure you need any

LEE COUNTIES ROLE IN BRINGING MORE TRAFFIC TO SANIBEL ALONG WITH OUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND LOCAL RESTAURANT PROMOTION (Doc Fords!)

??

Track the increase in rental purchases vs. owner only use.

Pressure on Florida politicians to stop sending dirty water to our beaches

A regular newsletter

Continue to offer programming or email summary about legal topics, emotional support animals, vendor issues, traffic/people issues.

Make certain Coti's position is communicated.

beach regulations - the beach is starting to look like fort lauderdale.

big tents w/flags & loud music.

pretty soon, we will be just another carnival.

use of fertilizers on sanibel.

promoting natural vegetation rather than grass grass grass

Continue being a shadow government.

Public education about what you do

Hosting discussion sessions on issues that can impact the Sanibel Plan. Provide frequent updates on the progress of the City Charter review.

**10. In your view how can COTI strengthen its influence with the City Council and Sanibel voters? - Responses**

**Answer**

see #6 above

Support only candidates that also have water quality as their most important objective.

More regular commentaries in the local papers -- especially the Santiva Chronicle (the best paper, journalistically).

I think a more important question these days is how can COTI strengthen its influence on the County Commission. That is where our problems must be dealt with.

don't know

From my perspective, the City Council continues to be a "good old boys club." Somewhere out there must be some women who could break the cycle and get on the Council. I would like COTI to throw its support toward some viable women candidates. I did not consider the last female candidate viable.

Courteous forthright discussion, and defense of

the sanctuary idea.

How about flyers in grocery stores on issues? Forums on topics...invite local and state politicians to hear their views, etc

How about a video on u tube?

Use local newspapers too

As above

review budget, salaries, perks, travel allowances and performance evaluations of people like the city manager--and publish each year.

also term limits. we have had enough of ruane and denham

Maybe more visibility?

I am not a Sanibel voter but ongoing newsletters, emails, community meetings, and COTI visible at all island activities is a plus. COTI having a strong backing from legitimate environmental groups and Florida tourism groups is also a plus. But...residents do not want to feel tourists and environmentalist are not considering their concerns/needs.

By being clear, concise, balanced.

By exhibiting inclusiveness and objectivity.

Doing that pretty effectively now!

Be welcoming and listen to diverse views.

Maybe get a member with marketing experience?

Continue to contribute with public comments during meetings.

Continue frequent email and island commentary

Get that info out there, not sure how to do that better

keep in communication with chamber of commerce and realtor's association to educate them and learn from them

Again, make your organization more known to residents. Perhaps flyers representing our concerns etc.

by increasing the number of members who support COTI's opinions.

Work with Sanibel Law Enforcement members.

People live here and come to this island to enjoy themselves. Sneaky speed traps (for instance) doesn't encourage respect for them.

Positive attitude encourage other positive attitudes.

Continue with a credible, knowledge based voice. Link positions to the city charter which is really the conscience of the COTI mission.

news articles

however, the City Council seems very aware

Get more members

Take stronger stands on behalf of residents

You do a good job of sticking to the facts and not sensationalizing (refreshing these days)...I think it gives your efforts credibility and validates your recommendations.

Publish the results of the survey in the local papers.

Continue to stream via newspaper and email what is under consideration by the City Council and its impact on Sanibel.

Pressure on City Council to stop the Army Corps of Engineers from sending dirty water to our beaches

Activate members

Bringing survey results and general feedback to the council is critical.

Again, communications.

Be more positive and part of solutions.

Maybe explaining what to stand for more often in paper and emails. Or weekly informative column in santiva chronicle.

Do some direct marketing.

I believe that COTI has an appropriate influence with the City Council. City Council has a responsibility to all its constituents, not just COTI members.

By doing all of the above

See number 7.