

WEST PALM BEACH

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

Topic: Proposed Framework | Date: July 13, 2026 | Prepared By: Thomas Valeo

PURPOSE

The Neighborhood Partnership Network is a collaborative engagement process designed to strengthen communication between the City of West Palm Beach and its neighborhoods.

The Network provides neighborhood leaders with meaningful access to information and subject matter experts that inform City decision making, creating an organized pipeline for questions, discussions, and collaboration.

The Neighborhood Partnership Network is intended to complement, not replace, the City's existing public engagement process, public meetings, and enhance City Commission decision making.

Participation in the Network does not limit or replace any resident's ability to participate in public meetings, contact their elected officials, or provide public comment through already existing channels.

ROLE OF THE NETWORK

The Neighborhood Partnership Network is an engagement and information-sharing body. It does not replace the authority of the City Commission, advisory boards, or required public hearings. The Network exists to improve community engagement and ensure residents have access to the data and information the City uses during the planning process before policy decisions are considered by the City Commission.

The Network does not vote or make recommendations on behalf of the City. Its purpose is to foster shared understanding through education, discussion, and the exchange of information. Consensus reached during meetings may be documented but is not binding upon the City Commission or City Administration.

Strong communities are built when residents have access to data driven information, are given the opportunity to understand how decisions are made, and have meaningful opportunities to ask questions before policy choices are finalized.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Network is built upon five guiding principles:

- **Transparency:** Provide neighborhood leaders with direct access to information used throughout the planning process.
- **Collaboration:** Foster constructive dialogue.
- **Respect:** Encourage thoughtful discussion grounded in mutual respect and a shared commitment to improving the community.
- **Education:** Ensure participants have access to the tools necessary to meaningfully engage with the planning recommendations and ask informed questions.
- **Communication:** Strengthen the flow of accurate information between the City and neighborhood organizations.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership will consist of residents currently representing a neighborhood association.

Initial participants will be selected from established neighborhood associations representing a broad cross-section of the City. Additional organizations may be invited as the Network evolves.

Participants must serve as Neighborhood representatives rather than advocates for individual projects.

The goal of the membership framework is to establish a functional working group that has a direct line of communication with residents through their neighborhood associations.

Representatives of the network must maintain a board position in their neighborhood association to serve as a member of the Network.

The Network should remain intentionally small to encourage productive discussion while maintaining a broad neighborhood representation.

Representatives who no longer meet the eligibility requirements or repeatedly fail to uphold the Network's guiding principles may be removed following consultation between the City Liaison and the participating neighborhood organizations.

CITY SUPPORT

The City will designate a City Liaison who will help facilitate regular meetings and ensure participants can:

- Engage directly with the City’s planning consultants.
- Review planning information and technical studies.
- Ask questions and receive responses from subject matter experts.
- Share community perspectives and help inform future public engagement efforts.

MEETING STRUCTURE

The initiative will begin with six structured working sessions focused on topics identified by Network members and City staff.

Meeting formats may include:

- Educational presentations.
- Technical briefings.
- Panel discussions.
- Question and answer sessions.
- Collaborative discussions regarding planning assumptions, data, and methodology.

Each meeting should include:

- An independent facilitator will moderate discussions and encourage productive dialogue — ensuring all participants have an opportunity to be heard. Whenever practical, the facilitator should be independent of the planning process.
- The City Liaison
- Appropriate city staff
- Planning consultants and/or subject matter experts.
- Agendas and meeting summaries.

A sample working sessions outlines are outlined below:

Session	Theme	Primary Question	Lead Presenters	Outcome
1. Setting the Stage	How Does the City Make Planning Decisions?	What factors does the City evaluate before making development decisions?	Deputy City Administrator, Development Services Director	Shared understanding of the planning process and decision-making framework.
2. Downtown Master Plan Update	What is the Downtown Master Plan and What It Isn’t	What is the purpose of the DMPU, what recommendations have been developed, and where is the process today?	Zyscovich consulting team	Common understanding of the plan’s goals, assumptions, and timeline.

3. Infrastructure & Public Investment	Can Our Infrastructure Support Future Growth?	How does the City plan, fund, and prioritize infrastructure improvements alongside development?	Public Works, Public Utilities, Engineering	Better understanding of infrastructure capacity, investment planning, and long-term growth management.
4. Transportation & Mobility	How Will West Palm Beach Move in the Future?	How are traffic, transit, parking, pedestrian connectivity, and bicycle mobility evaluated as the City grows?	Transportation, Planning, Engineering, Traffic Consultants (if applicable)	Shared understanding of mobility strategies, transportation modeling, and planned improvements.
5. Water Resources & Sustainability	How Do We Protect Our Most Important Natural Resource	How does West Palm Beach plan for water supply, water quality, resiliency, and future demands?	Public Utilities, Sustainability	Better understanding of the City's long-term water planning and environmental stewardship.
6. Community Priorities	What is next?	What we have learned, and where do we go from here?	City Liaison, Mayor	Review discussions, identify unanswered questions, discuss consensus and identify remaining concerns, talk about how future engagement should occur.

Engagement between the neighborhood leaders and the City Liaison should be continuous and not limited to scheduled working sessions.

INFORMATION SHARING

Coalition members are encouraged to serve as trusted conduits of information between the City and their respective neighborhood organizations.

The communication model is intended to strengthen the public understanding and engagement by creating a direct pathway for sharing data driven information. In other words, it is the creation of a legitimate *Neighborhood Partnership Network*.

The City connects with:

Neighborhood Leaders → Neighborhood leaders connect with residents → Residents communicate back.

Likewise, community concerns, questions, and recommendations should flow back through the same process to inform future discussions.

We are literally creating a *network* grounded in two-way communications, transparency, accountability, and the dissemination of factual information and data.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Network is intended to operate on a timeline driven by meaningful engagement rather than predetermined deadlines.

To ensure that the work of this resident-led coalition is memorialized for the record, the Network's Working Group will submit written reports to the Mayor, City Administration, and the City Commission for the record.

All meetings will be documented for the record, so that all questions, comments, concerns and other matters are taken into consideration and used to guide public discourse by the Mayor, City Administration, and City Commissioners.

There is no true endpoint because the goal is to create an ongoing and continuous conversation between City Hall and Neighborhoods throughout the City of West Palm Beach. If done correctly, residents and City Hall will have moved towards building stronger neighborhood relationships, created a mechanism that:

- Allows for earlier public participation,
- Improves the understanding of the planning process,
- Documents questions,
- Recommendations for future engagement,
- Increases transparency, and
- Reduces misinformation.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

This framework represents the beginning.

As discussions continue, the framework may be refined and strengthened while remaining grounded in its core principles.

The objective is to build a stronger engagement model that not only supports the Downtown Master Plan Update but also serves as a template for future community engagement efforts throughout the City.