



PARK BOARD STUDY SESSION

10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 22, 2021

WebEx virtual meeting

Park Board members:

X Jennifer Ogden – President
X Bob Anderson – Vice President
X Garrett Jones – Secretary
X Nick Sumner
Rick Chase (Absent/excused)
X Greta Gilman
X Sally Lodato
X Gerry Sperling
X Barb Richey
Hannah Kitz (Absent/excused)
X Kevin Brownlee
X Michael Cathcart – City Council liaison

Guest:

Mark Richard, Downtown Spokane Partnership

Staff:

Jonathan Moog
Jason Conley
Amy Lindsey
Jennifer Papich
Fianna Dickson
Mark Buening
Nick Hamad
Berry Ellison
James Richman
Kevin Sharrai
Ryan Griffith
Pamela Clarke

Agenda

1. **Roll call:** *See above*
2. **Special discussion/action items:**
 - A. **Downtown zipline project update** – *Jonathan Moog* presented an overview of the proposed zipline project along the river in downtown Spokane.
 - a. Purpose: The zipline is designed to activate Riverfront Park, Redband Park and downtown. Mr. Moog explained the zipline advances goals of the Riverfront Park Master Plan, and is expected to build economic strength for downtown and the region.
 - b. Financial support/partnership: A few years ago, Engineering Services explored the option of the zipline being part of the downtown CSO project, but city capital funds were not available. The zipline project was then envisioned as a private/public partnership with a private partner providing capital, and building and operating the zipline, and the city would lease the property to the private partner.
 - c. Current efforts: Staff is currently evaluating constructability and permits, confirming zipline departure/landing sites, assessing level of support from private partners, community, stakeholders and users, completing general research, and collecting information to guide the potential Request for Proposal. Mr. Moog reported a private party has indicated interest in the project, but selection will be conducted through the city's competitive process.

- d. Location considerations: The proposed departure site would be at the far eastern side of the CSO #26 plaza located just north of the Downtown Library. The zipline landing would be at Redband Park in Peaceful Valley. This would involve a 1,400-foot cable over the river which would run under the main arch of the Monroe Street Bridge. It would be a dual line which allows two people to ride at the same time on two separate cables.
- e. Stakeholder feedback: While some stakeholders have shared concerns and questions, none of those whom staff has met with have voiced opposition to the project. Additional outreach is planned in the near future to gather public comment.
- f. Process: A timeline for the process was presented. Mr. Moog explained some of the dates may be pushed out a few months to allow time to gather input from leadership and community levels. Public outreach is expected to take about four months followed by the RFP process, City Council and Park Board approvals, design-build validation, permitting, and construction drawings. Construction could begin around September 2022.

3. **Opinions/next steps:**

- a. Opinions: The majority of the board attending the meeting supported the project and endorsed staff to develop a letter of support which would be brought before the Park Board for consideration. Kevin Brownlee shared some reservations, including: 1) before drafting a letter of support or beginning the RFP process, he would like to see solutions to certain concerns, such as traffic congestion and shuttle logistics; and 2) this proposed site may not be the best location for a zipline since this is a primary viewing spot to see the river and the gorge. Mr. Moog explained the initial thought was to place the zipline within Riverfront Park where it would run from the north shore to Havermale Island. Due to permitting restrictions, it was discovered the zipline may not cross the river at this location. The zipline could; however, cross at the west side of the Monroe Street Bridge where the zipline is currently proposed. Mr. Moog explained given the permitting components and elevation drop requirements, the proposed site is the only feasible site within immediate proximity of the downtown area. Mr. Brownlee accepted an invitation to be part of the RFP development working group.
- b. Next steps: While no formal vote was taken, it was the consensus of the group to continue the exploration of this private/public opportunity. Jennifer Ogden explained the board will still have the opportunity to approve or disapprove the project. This is only endorsing that this proposal has the merit to be explored further. Mr. Moog will submit a letter of support for the Park Board's consideration.

4. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Approved by:

Garrett Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation

An architectural rendering of a proposed zipline experience in downtown Spokane. The view is from an elevated platform with a dark metal railing, looking down at a river and across a large stone arch bridge. The zipline cable is visible extending from the platform towards the river. The scene includes lush greenery, trees, and modern buildings in the background under a cloudy sky.

Downtown Zipline

Spokane Park Board Study Session
January 22, 2021


Jonathan Moog, Director of Riverfront Spokane

B W A BERNARDO WILLS
ARCHITECTS PC



Agenda

- Purpose for Project
- Current Status
- General Concept Overview
- Private/Public Partnership Model
- Stakeholder Feedback
- Process & Next steps
- Questions & Discussion



Purpose for Project – Why?

- Riverfront Park, Redband Park and Downtown Activation
- Appeal to teens & young adult
- Advances goals of Riverfront Park Master plan
- Build Economic strength for downtown and region
- Catalyst for hospitality and tourism industry
- Off sets cost of plaza and park maintenance

Current Status



2017/2018 - City Engineering Services explored zipline as part of CSO Project but city capital funds were not available

Concept was for City to build and hire private party to operate

Cost estimate and artist rendering came from this project



2019/2020 – Project was re-envisioned as private/public partnership

Private partner would provide capital, build and operate.



Current Effort Seeks to:

Evaluate challenges of constructability and permits

Confirm location of departure and landing sites and their constraints

Evaluate interest of private partners

Evaluate level of support by community/stakeholders/users

Complete general research and define approach/process

Collect information to guide potential RFP requirements



CSO 26 Plaza

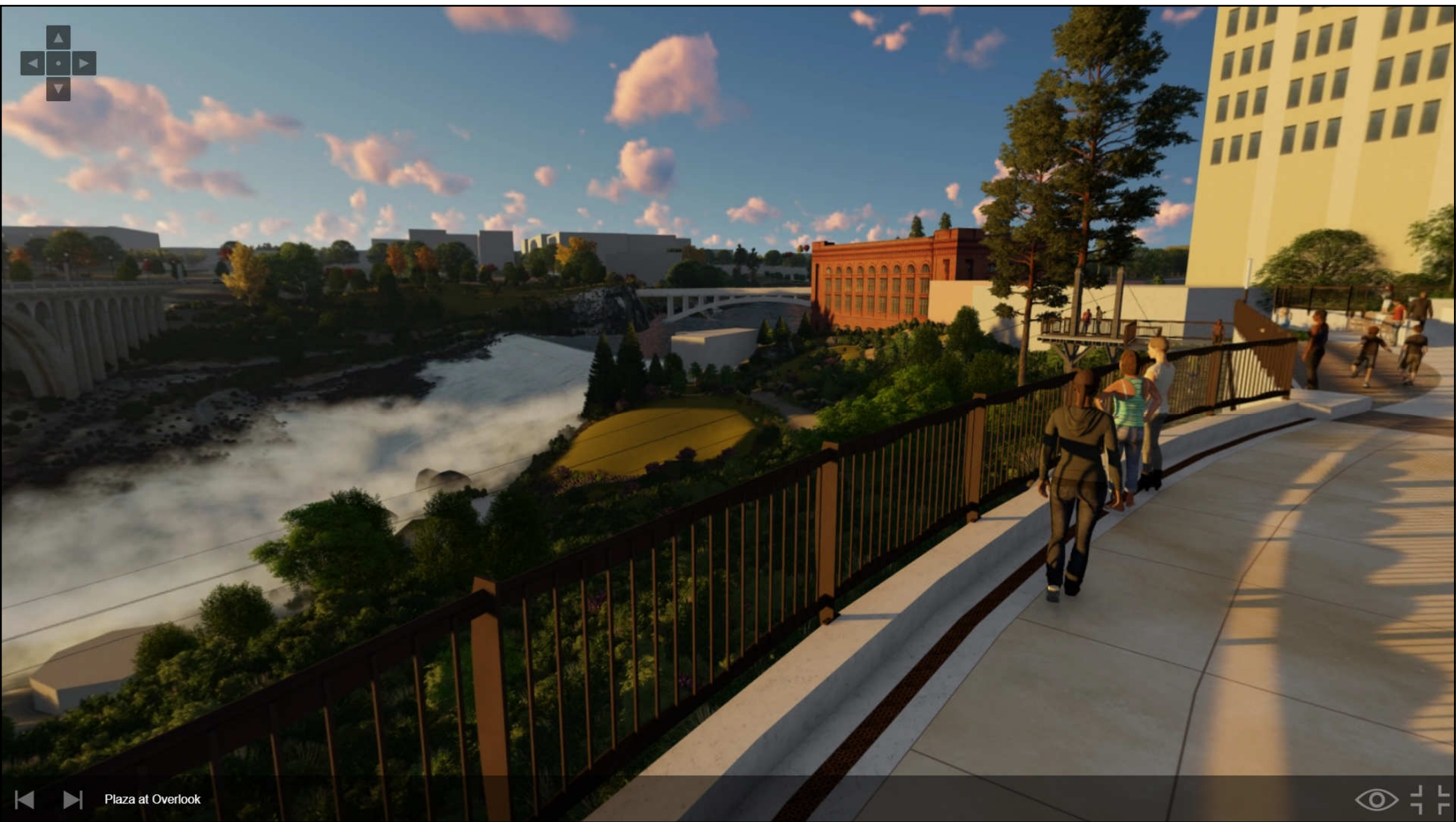
Redband Park

Overview



◀ ▶ Northeast View of Zipline and Overlook







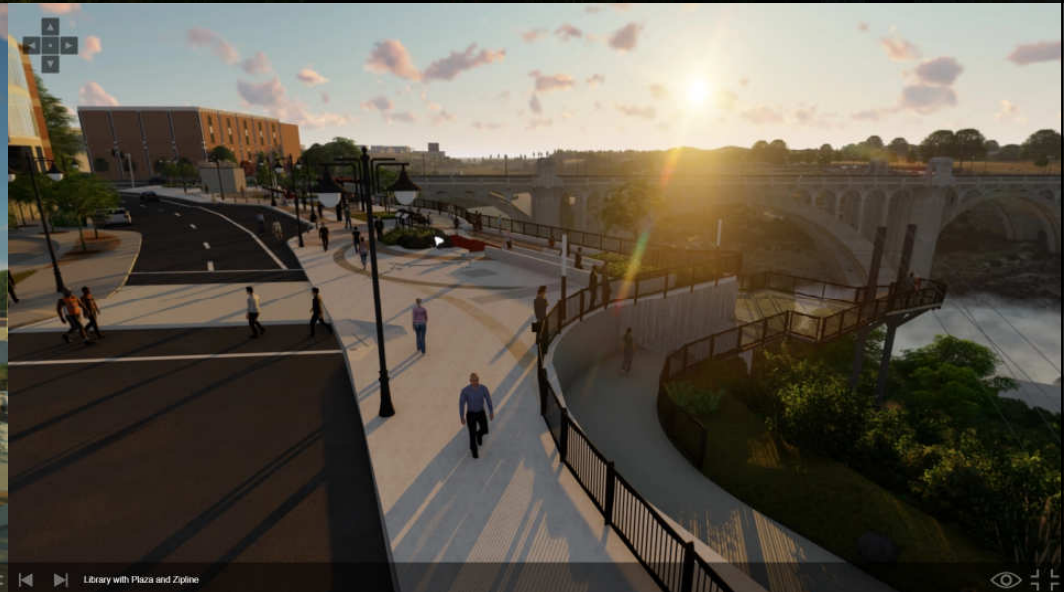
View From Monroe Street Bridge's Center of First Arch



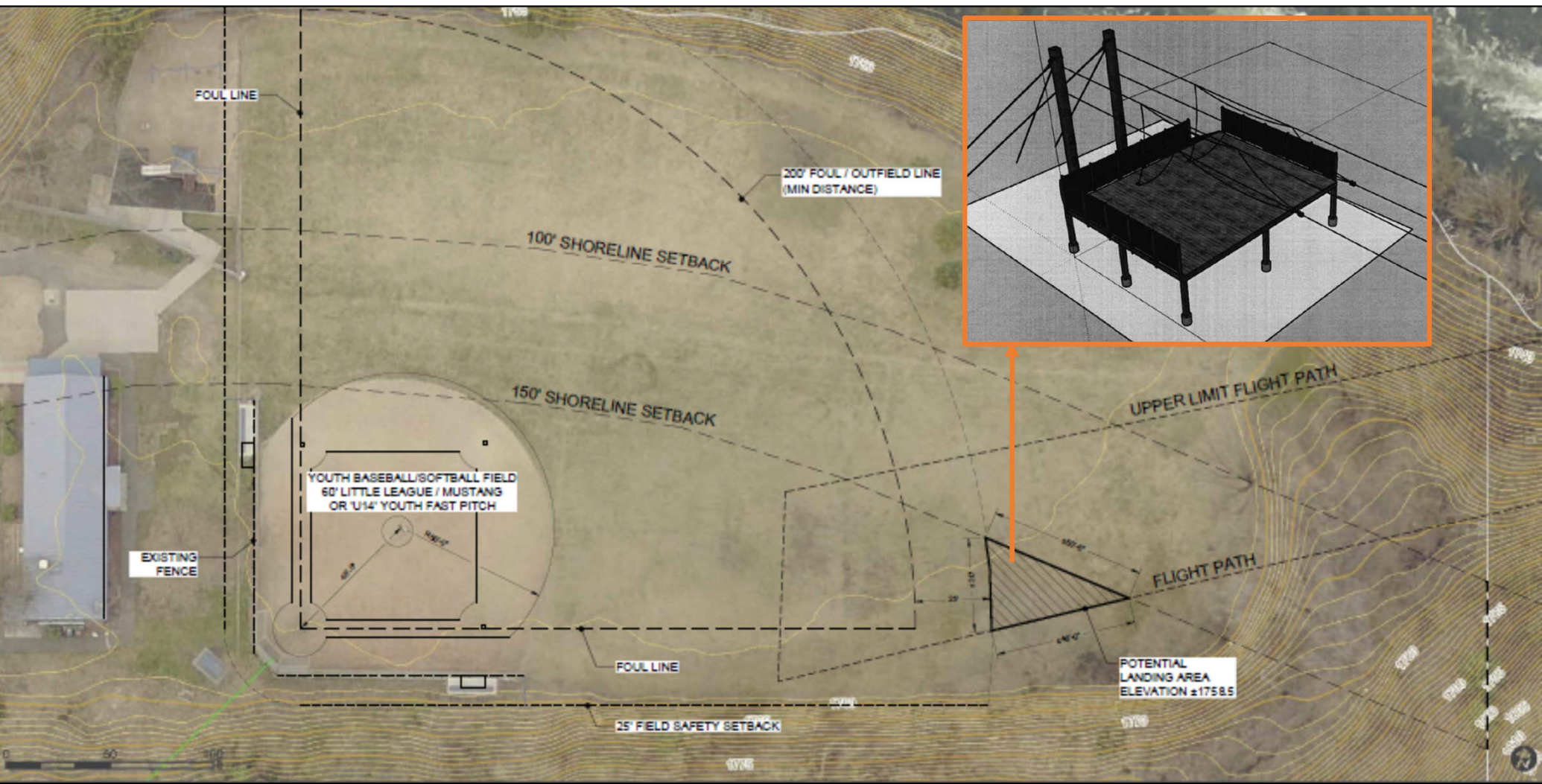
West End Path Overlook



View 2nd Floor Downtown Library



Library with Plaza and Zipline



Private / Public Partnership

Selected Partner Requirements:

- Responsible for Operations
- ACCT accredited
- Invest Capital to design and build Zip Line
- Licensed and insured. Carries the risk
- Markets and advertise program
- Free tickets to Spokane programs, charitable organizations, low income and underserved youth
- Interpretive signage for Spokane history, conservation, cultural heritage

Side topics:

- Interested parties
- Concept for an “orientation” zipline on Avista Property within Riverfront
- Key operational details will be coordinated in and through RFP process.

City of Spokane

- Minimum 10 year contract
- Provides City owned property
- Receives portion of gross revenue share to be negotiated (est. \$40-\$65K)
- Provide utilities and some infrastructure (briefing rooms, on site sales)
- No support facilities will be allowed on the CSO plaza

Stakeholder Feedback

Completed Stakeholder Meetings:

- Mayor Woodward
- Park Board
- Spokane City Council
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Council
- Riverside Neighborhood Council
- Visit Spokane
- Downtown Spokane Partnership
- Spokane Youth Baseball / Spokane Indians Baseball club
- River Forum
- Avista Utilities
- Internal Parks & Recreation Staff members
- Various Permitting Authorities (DOE, ACOE, DFW, City Planning)

Topics of Interest from Stakeholders:

- Desire to be part of process
- Liability of operations
- Safety (rider & spectator)
- View sheds from plaza
- Redband Parking
- Redband Park Activation
- Operational questions
- Plaza congestion
- South gorge trail extension
- Porta porty over use
- Maintenance of Zipline
- Allocation potential revenue
- Operator goes out of business
- Noise of attraction

Process & Next Steps

	Time Allotment	Estimated Completion
Initial stakeholder Outreach - Authorities having Jurisdiction, City Council, Park Board, Public outreach	4 months	Jan 2020
Request for Proposal	3 months	April 2021
Council / Park Board Approval	1 month	May 2021
Design Build validation – conceptual scope, second community outreach, schematic designs	3 months	Aug 2021
Permitting with Authorities Having Jurisdiction	6 months	Feb 2022
Construction Drawings	3 months	May 2022
Construction	3 months	Aug 2022

Next Steps:

- Letter of Support from Park Board
- Follow- up with neighborhood councils
- Seek City Council Support to continue
- Develop RFP working Group



Questions & Discussion
