



## CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800  
www.kirklandwa.gov

---

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Pam Bissonnette, Interim Public Works Director  
**Date:** April 24, 2014  
**Subject:** New Staff Introduction: Erin Devoto

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Erin Devoto be introduced to the City Council as Kirkland's new Public Works Superintendent in charge of maintenance and operations, and of the Maintenance Center.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:**

Staff is pleased to introduce Erin Devoto as Kirkland's new Public Works Superintendent. Erin comes to Kirkland with a rich and unique background in both the private and public sectors, including roles as Director of Construction and Maintenance for FAO Schwartz in New York and Barclay Dean Construction in Seattle; Building Official, City of Issaquah; Director of Facilities Management and Capital Programs, Seattle Center; Director of Planning and Development for Seattle Parks; and most recently Director of Information Technology for the City of Seattle (See Attachment A for her resume). Erin lives on the eastside in Bellevue.

Erin started her career as one of the first women concrete and structural steel inspectors in Seattle. She has worked as a construction manager for a borough in Alaska. Unusual work interests her such as the replacement of 400 pilings under the Seattle Aquarium pier while keeping the Aquarium open. She is excited about coming to Kirkland to return to her chosen career of operations and construction of public facilities. But she also brings great capacity in technology, which will be needed as the City approaches upgrading maintenance systems like Hansen and continues to grow Kirkland's Intelligent Transportation System.

Public Works is extremely happy that Erin has decided to join the team. The position of Public Works Superintendent existed in the past, but has not been part of the organization in over ten years. Recreating it was a recommendation of the Public Works Leadership Team and it was accomplished by repurposing the Deputy Director position. Erin will be shaping the role to meet current needs. Kirkland is much larger than a decade ago through annexation in 2011. Much of the PW increased work load has been in the area of Operations and Maintenance. An upgrade and enlargement of the City's maintenance facilities to accommodate the larger city and future growth must be accomplished. Regional relationships in water and sewer are driving Kirkland rates and our own utility operations programs. Erin's regional relationships and skills will help work with King County Wastewater and Cascade Water Alliance on such issues. Erin's strengths are well suited to emerging issues in street and sidewalk maintenance risk management, and the long term development and maintenance of the Cross Kirkland Corridor. Her talents and varied, high level experiences make her well suited to what Kirkland needs and we welcome her to the Kirkland Community.

**ERIN DEVOTO**

**PROFILE:** Dedicated, energetic and team-oriented leader with proven ability to lead large organizations in the areas of large capital projects and programs, large public initiatives and information technology. Proactive in development of engaging the public in projects and programs, and demonstrated ability to integrate community interests with decisions made by elected officials.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Executive Management

- Led citywide technology initiatives across a federated organization and developed the modernization strategy for moving the City's IT to a cloud based infrastructure.
- Built the organization to implement two major levy-funded capital development programs at the City of Seattle totaling over \$200 million; projects included open space acquisition, new and renovated parks, facilities and community centers. Directed the planning, design, public input, accounting and project management practices for the organization resulting in all projects completed on time and within budget.
- Created and implemented a system to incorporate environmentally sustainable features in the City of Seattle's capital construction and maintenance functions. Built the city's first LEED gold rated facility at Carkeek Environmental Center, and obtained two Gold and one LEED certifications for Community Center Levy projects.

Budget and Policy Management

- Developed project based cost accounting systems resulting in financial accountability for over \$175 million capital projects with completion on time and within budget. Strategically managed the risks associated with construction and property acquisition resulting in no construction claims against the City.
- Oversaw the development of planning efforts including the asset management plan, shoreline habitat plans and the Arts Plan for two levies and the Parks' major maintenance plan.
- Developed and implemented successful public outreach strategies with the public and provided strategy for over 1000 public meetings involving 15,000 stakeholders.

Human Resource Management

- Developed employee performance and tracking systems to improve public sector employee accountability. Developed public sector recognition activities to keep morale high for employees working under high public scrutiny and challenging deadlines.
- Created and implemented a companywide safety program to ensure safe workplace environments for both employees and contractors.
- Increased ethnic diversity of staff and WMBE contracting participation across two city departments.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### CITY OF SEATTLE

#### CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

2012- Present

#### DEPUTY DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2007- 2012

Department of Information Technology, City of Seattle

Seattle, WA

As Chief Technology Officer, supervise the department consisting of 200 technology employees and set standards and policy for the City's IT services. Responsible for the City's website, Seattle Channel, IT projects, operations of the City's Public Safety Radio System, Telephone System, Data Center, Data Network, Desktop and Mobile Computing. Oversee the City's fiber network and fiber partnership owned by 17 jurisdictions and partners. Develop and administer an annual budget of \$65 million. Created the Project Management Office to ensure consistent delivery of IT projects.

#### DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

2001 –2007

Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Seattle

Seattle, WA

Directed and managed the development program for the City of Seattle's 6000-acre parks system to enhance the quality of life through parks and recreation. Oversee special levy-funded programs totaling more than \$200 million including land acquisitions, project planning, site design and engineering, and development of more than 300 projects. Responsible for the planning and renovation of the \$30M Seattle Aquarium Project consisting of replacement of over 400 piling while the building was occupied. Manage an annual operating budget of \$8 million and supervise 85 employees. Develop legislation to authorize project budgets, partnership agreements, and land acquisitions. Cultivate community involvement processes to implement the decisions of elected officials and community interests. Assist City executives and elected officials in making informed and timely choices. Actively pursue grant and private fundraising such as IAC grants, Starbuck grants. Foster coordination between Seattle School District, Youth Sports and neighborhood interest in programming athletic fields. Worked closely with regulatory agencies, design boards and commissions to coordinate project activities. Oversee large regional park projects such as South Lake Union Park, Magnuson Park and Cal Anderson Park. Created and established maintenance, operation and design standards for park facilities.

#### OPERATIONS MANAGER

1998 – 2001

Krekow Jennings, General Contractor

Seattle, WA

Supervised and provided leadership for the day-to-day operations of a \$50 million company including field supervision, project management, safety program, customer service, budget, scheduling, and risk management. Accomplishments include development of company-wide scheduling and cost control practices, objectives and strategies for safety standards, and labor management for 200 employees.

#### DIRECTOR OF FACILITY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS

1998

Seattle Center, City of Seattle

Seattle, WA

Directed the day to day maintenance for the 74 acre campus encompassing over 350 employees representing several labor unions (including skilled trades), managed 10 managers and supervisors. Created maintenance protocols, and led the capital long range planning and development of facilities for Seattle Center. Coordinated programming from Pacific Science Center, Fun Forest, Experience Music Project, Key Arena and festivals with campus daily operations.

**DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION**

1995-1998

Barclay Dean Construction

Seattle, WA

Built the Tenant Improvement Division from \$1 million to \$10 million in project volume and increased profit margins. Standardized and implemented cost estimating and project management systems to improve project profitability. Trained and developed project management staff in areas of budgeting, scheduling, and construction management. Administered the company safety program to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.

**DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE**

1993-1995

FAO Schwartz Company

New York, NY

Managed daily capital, maintenance, and operations for twelve retail facilities to create new facilities and maintain existing. Negotiated lease agreements, construction contracts, development and training for store operations. Directed design, planning, and construction activities for new and renovated stores.

**OTHER POSITIONS**

- PROJECT MANAGER Foushee Associates, Bellevue WA
- BUILDING OFFICIAL City of Issaquah, Issaquah WA
- PROJECT MANAGER Rogers and Babler, Anchorage, AK
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGER Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak, Alaska

**EDUCATION**

University of Washington, Evans School, Masters of Public Administration Degree

University of Washington, Executive Management Certificate Program

University of Oregon, Interior Architecture Major

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS**

Washington Women in Need, Former Board Member; Fund Development Committee, Program Committee, Event Planning

Seattle Management Association, Project Manager Award

Washington Park Arboretum Board of Directors, Past City of Seattle Representative

Former Member Seattle Center Commission Board of Directors (appointed by Mayor Schell)

Former Member Issaquah Arts Commission (appointed by Mayor)