

## North Metro Telecommunications Commission Meeting Talking Points

September 20, 2023

- ▶ North Metro TV has entered into an agreement with Neighborhood Sports Network to provide games to be streamed over the NSPN.TV app. NSPN holds the streaming contract with the Minnesota State High School League and was looking for organizations willing to supply better quality coverage of games. The agreement covers a trial period, from August 31<sup>st</sup> to November 30, 2023. NMTV will be compensated up to 70% for all attributed monthly and annual subscriptions and for any downloads of games. During the trial period games will not be streamed live on Youtube or NMTV streaming channels, but they will still be sent out live on the cable channels. Links have been placed on the NMTV website, Youtube channel, and social media outlets directing viewers to the NSPN.TV app. This is an income source that has been considered for some time, as it fits the goal of earning money without changing NMTV's mission, and only affects those not currently contributing financially to NMTV's operation.
- ▶ North Metro TV is providing a new series of internet literacy classes intended for senior citizens. The series includes: Internet Basics, How to search the Internet, How to Send an Email, and Look out for Scams. Classes have been scheduled at the Mary Ann Young Center throughout the fall. Those classes filled so quickly the attendance level was increased. NMTV is also talking with the Rookery and the Ham Lake Senior Center regarding offering the classes at those venues.
- ▶ City meetings can now be accessed as a podcast. NMTV is talking with cities to determine whether they are interested, which meetings they would like to provide as a podcast, and how long to make them available on the players. It is one more distribution method NMTV can offer cities at no additional cost. The podcasts will be available on Amazon, Spotify, iHeart and Apple.
- ▶ Election coverage for Lino Lakes, Circle Pines and several school board races is underway. Bios and pics have been posted on the website and one-on-one candidate interviews are wrapping up. In addition to being available on Youtube, the NMTV website and channels, the interviews will also be available as a podcast.
- ▶ Special Events Coordinator, T.J. Tronson, and North Metro TV were unanimously chosen to receive the League of Women Voters *Friend of the League* Award at a September ceremony. T.J. attended the ceremony and was given a watercolor, painted from a screen shot, from one of his drone flights.
- ▶ Blaine Commission Member, Chris Massoglia, told the Commission that the Blaine City Council plans to workshop his idea to merge with another cable commission. Commissioner Massoglia stated that it was a preliminary consideration of an idea. With the uncertainty that comes with that process, the Executive Director search has been put on hold, with the expectation that an interim director will be named.
- ▶ Comments were submitted to the FCC in support of requiring cable companies to provide subscribers with an all-in price on clear and understandable bills.

- ▶ The Office of Broadband Development in Minnesota has issued their draft digital opportunity plan. Legal Counsel will be submitting comments on behalf of the Commission to encourage the Office of Broadband Development to consider using their municipal partners for making sure that all citizens have equal access to broadband. One of the best ways to do that is to encourage the state legislature to allow franchising of broadband companies.

**PLEASE encourage your council members to call me if they have any questions you can't answer. I would be happy to answer any questions they may have. Heidi Arnson at NMTV. Direct line is 763-231-2801. Email is [harnson@northmetrotv.com](mailto:harnson@northmetrotv.com).**