

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

March 21, 2018
6:00 p.m.

SPRING LAKE PARK CITY OFFICES
1301 81st Avenue NE
Spring Lake Park, Minnesota

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
2. CONSENT AGENDA **pp. 1-10**
 - 2.1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting, February 21, 2017
 - 2.2. Approval of the February financial reports and bill list
3. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD
4. NORTH METRO TV REPORT **pp. 11--17**
 - 4.1. Monthly update
5. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **pp. 18-21**
 - 5.1. Franchise Fee/PEG Fee Audit
 - 5.2. Drone Ordinance Project
 - 5.3. CenturyLink 4Q Meeting
6. REPORT OF OPERATIONS COMMITTEE **p. 22-23**
7. REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL
 - 7.1. Monthly Report **pp.38-40**
8. REPORT OF COMCAST
9. REPORT OF CENTURYLINK
10. NEW BUSINESS
 - 10.1. League of MN Cities Liability Coverage Waiver **p.24**
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. REPORT OF DIRECTORS
13. COMMUNICATIONS **pp. 25-33**
14. ADJOURN

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Commission Meeting – February 21, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair D. Swanson called the regular meeting of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Spring Lake Park city offices.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Mike Murphy; Lexington, Jennifer Rauner; Circle Pines, Steve King; Centerville, Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes, Cindy Hansen; Spring Lake Park

Directors Absent: Al Parranto; Ham Lake,

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director, Mike Bradley; Legal Counsel

Comcast Rep:

CenturyLink Rep:

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Minutes, Bill List, Financial Reports**

The December 20, 2017 minutes, and December and January bill lists and financial reports were approved as presented. **Motion for approval made by C. Hansen. Second, M. Murphy. Motion passed.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None present.

REPORT OF NORTH METRO TV

H. Arnson reviewed the North Metro TV report as presented in the packet. A summary was also given of activities for the months of January and February. Topics included:

- Studio Manager and Instructor, Eric Houston, presented his class "Early Film Treasures" at the Mary Ann Young Senior Center. The class included viewing short films created between 1888 and 1901, and then discussion. He has

been asked to teach more classes at the Center. He is also teaching the same class at Spring Lake Park City Hall through the Recreation Department.

- Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, has completed a 20 minute video on the Lino Lakes Corrections Facility and Juvenile Detention Center. The intent of the video is to inform the public of the various populations and services within the facility, assure them of the security of the facility, and demonstrate all of the positive work being done there.
- NMTV staff is working on the Snow Bowl video for Ham Lake, coverage of Lino Lakes Guns and Hoses charity hockey game, and the 2018 version of Arrive Alive.
- The tape transfer program continues to be very popular.
- Instructor Eric Houston worked taught classes and worked with four Blaine High School students to produce a project for the state broadcasting competition of the Future Business Professionals of America. The students took first place at Regionals and are on their way to State.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

M. Murphy reported on the following items:

- The materials related to the 2018 disbursement of franchise fees collected in 2017 were reviewed. Both the number of cable subscribers and the total amount of franchise fees collected increased. The new percentages of individual City income related to total Member City income were noted.

MOTION: To approve disbursement of the 2017 franchise fees, retained by the Member Cities, as presented in the disbursement materials. **Motion for approval made by: M. Murphy. Second: S King. Motion approved.**

- The Commission and Member Cities have received letters from Comcast notifying us of the Company's interest in renewing the franchise.
- Circle Pines and Ham Lake are both ready to move forward with their HD upgrades.
- Recommendations were made for members of the 2018 Executive Committee. Dick Swanson, Cindy Hansen, Mike Murphy and Dale Stoesz indicated a desire to serve on the committee. No other members of the Commission indicated interest in being on the Committee. It was recommended that Dick Swanson serve as Chair, Mike Murphy serve as Vice Chair, Cindy Hansen serve as Treasurer, and Dale Stoesz serve as Secretary.

MOTION: To approve the Executive Committee as recommended. **Motion for approval made by: D. Swanson. Second: C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

M. Bradley reported on the following items:

- Resolution 2018-01 was presented. It is a Resolution Concerning the Commencement of Renewal Proceedings Under the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, As Amended. The resolution represents the Cable Commission's acknowledgement of the start of the franchise renewal process.

MOTION: To adopt A Resolution Concerning the Commencement of Renewal Proceedings Under the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, As Amended. **Motion for approval made by: C. Hansen. Second: M. Murphy. Motion approved.**

- CenturyLink has announced that it will no longer offer its CenturyLink Stream service. This is not the same as the PRISM cable TV service.
- CenturyLink sent the Commission a memo to explain the reason why the franchise fees dropped so much starting with the 3rd Quarter. Other than identifying it as a billing issue between two systems, the issue still isn't clear. Staff and Legal Counsel will continue to investigate.
- CenturyLink's PEG Interconnect is functional.
- CenturyLink and the Attorney General's office continue to have discussions toward settling the lawsuit. Issues to be resolved include the amount of the fine.
- Comcast has not been responsive to repeated emails regarding the 4th Quarter PEG fee discrepancy. If they do not respond soon the Commission could find them in violation of the franchise.
- M. Bradley has prepared several informative memos regarding the Open Meeting Law, Policies Related to Public Disruptions, and a proposal for developing drone policies and ordinances. They will be discussed at the March meetings.
- The Closed Captioning study is progressing slowly. Several participants have yet to supply the data necessary to move forward. The study will make sure that Member Cities are completely compliant by FCC and ADA rules.

REPORT OF COMCAST

No report was presented.

REPORT OF CENTURYLINK

No report was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS

No reports of Directors were presented.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m. **The motion to adjourn was made by C. Hansen. Second, D. Stoesz. Motion approved.**

The next meeting of the NMTC will be held on **Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** at the city offices of Spring Lake Park.

Dale Stoesz; Secretary, NMTC

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

FEBRUARY 2018

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	PAYROLL	42,219.76
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	13,286.30
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,345.90
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,995.94
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	38.40
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	962.50
13231	2/7/18	Richard D. Larson	341.00
13232	2/14/18	Corporate Mechanical	821.73
13233	2/14/18	Floyd Security / SRSI	126.93
13234	2/14/18	Commercial Plumbing & Heating	203.00
13235	2/14/18	BizzyWeb, LLC	149.50
13236	2/14/18	Grass Hopper Lawn & Snow	800.00
13237	2/14/18	U.S. Bank Card Service	204.73
13238	2/21/18	City of Blaine	219,587.36
13239	2/21/18	City of Centerville	13,940.64
13240	2/21/18	City of Circle Pines	18,491.08
13241	2/21/18	City of Ham Lake	54,829.64
13242	2/21/18	City of Lexington	7,004.16
13243	2/21/18	City of Lino Lakes	64,046.84
13244	2/21/18	City of Spring Lake Park	22,100.27
13245	2/14/18	Metro North Chamber of Comm.	441.00
13246	2/16/18	INTERSTATE COMPANIES, INC	627.00
13247	2/26/18	Z Systems	279.30
13248	2/26/18	Bradley Law, LLC	2,012.50
EFILE	2/1/18	Authorize.Net	25.30
EFILE	2/18/18	Chase Visa Card Services	3,968.35
EFILE	2/1/18	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	11.18
EPAY-01	2/2/18	POPP TELECOM	831.17
EPAY-02	2/3/18	Comcast	285.92
EPAY-03	2/3/18	T-Mobile	103.16
EPAY-04	2/4/18	Principal Financial Group	419.86
EPAY-05	2/12/18	AT&T Wireless	383.93
EPAY-06	2/14/18	Republic Services	315.68
EPAY-07	2/15/18	CenterPoint Energy	614.80
EPAY-08	2/19/18	SA Fleet-Wex Bank	46.34
EPAY-09	2/22/18	HealthPartners	8,667.74
EPAY-10	2/23/18	City of Blaine-utilities	58.50
EPAY-11	2/26/18	Connexus Energy	2,070.65
EPAY-12	2/28/18	Star Tribune	410.28
EPAY-13	2/28/18	Pioneer Press	229.84
EPAY-14	2/28/18	Sam's Club	300.00
JAN SALES TAX	2/13/18	MN Dept. of Revenue	62.00

491,660.18

North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Balance Sheet

February 28, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash - Checking Account	\$ 2,336,415.17	
Petty Cash	150.00	
A/R - NMTC	197,006.49	
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC	13,276.21	
Total Current Assets		2,546,847.87
Property and Equipment		
Office Equipment - NMTC	1,304,420.69	
Accum Deprec - NMTC	(1,945,964.39)	
Bond Equipment 2016	1,985,000.00	
Building-Polk/125	1,503,204.17	
Land-Polk/125	225,700.00	
Total Property and Equipment		3,072,360.47
Other Assets		
Deferred Out Related/Pension	347,614.00	
Total Other Assets		347,614.00
Total Assets	\$	<u>5,966,822.34</u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
A/P - NMTC	\$ 1,260.00	
Accrued Payroll Taxes & W/H's	449.54	
PERA PAYABLE	(768.59)	
Accrued Vacation	99,067.60	
Accrued Wages	31,606.04	
Franchise Fee App	924,284.15	
Due to City of Blaine	861,760.00	
Due to City of Centerville	53,440.00	
Due to City of Circle Pines	76,639.50	
Due to City of Ham Lake	223,360.00	
Due to City of Lexington	28,639.50	
Due to City of Lino Lakes	264,000.00	
Due to City of Spring Lake Par	92,160.00	
Deferred In Related/Pension	85,894.00	
Total Current Liabilities		2,741,791.74
Long-Term Liabilities		
Net Pension Liability	828,188.00	
Total Long-Term Liabilities		828,188.00
Total Liabilities		3,569,979.74
Capital		
Net Equity	257,597.86	
Net Equity - Media Ctr	(206,243.34)	
Net Equity - NMTC	2,517,656.37	
Net Income	(172,168.29)	
Total Capital		<u>2,396,842.60</u>
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	<u>5,966,822.34</u>

Internally Prepared - For Management Use Only
P. 6

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Cash Receipts Journal

For the Period From Feb 1, 2018 to Feb 28, 2018

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amnt	Credit Amnt
2/13/1	JANUARY PAYPAL	JANUARY PAYPAL PAYPAL	14.26	14.26
2/14/1	TAPE DUBS-CASH	TAPE DUBS-CASH Miscellaneous receipts	220.00	220.00
2/14/1	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS Miscellaneous receipts	35.00	35.00
2/14/1	KUSSIAN-JAN	FAMILY COVERAGE-JANUARY Miscellaneous receipts	1,178.00	1,178.00
2/25/1	FEB CC SALES-AUTH	FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET-FEES Credit Card Sales	1.02 33.98	35.00
2/26/1	FEB CC SALES-VM	CREDIT CARD SALES - VIRTUAL MERCHANT Credit Card Sales	745.00	745.00
2/27/1	INTEREST	INTEREST-COMMISSION CHECKING INTEREST - COMMISSION	2,304.33	2,304.33
			4,531.59	4,531.59

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Feb 1, 2018 to Feb 28, 2018

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	2/1/18	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EFILE	2/1/18	Authorize.Net	25.30
EFILE	2/1/18	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	11.18
EPAY-01	2/2/18	POPP TELECOM	831.17
EPAY-02	2/3/18	Comcast	285.92
EPAY-03	2/3/18	T-Mobile	103.16
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EFILE	2/5/18	Public Employees Retirement	768.59
13231	2/7/18	Richard D. Larson	341.00
EPAY-05	2/12/18	AT&T Wireless	383.93
JAN SALES TAX	2/13/18	MN Dept. of Revenue	62.00
PEACH	2/14/18	Peachtree/Sage Software	19.20
EFILE	2/14/18	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,079.23
EFILE	2/14/18	Public Employees Retirement	3,457.35
EFILE	2/14/18	IRS/US BANK	5,821.28
EFILE	2/14/18	Discovery Benefits	470.00
13232	2/14/18	Corporate Mechanical	821.73
13233	2/14/18	Floyd Security / SRSI	126.93
13234	2/14/18	Commercial Plumbing & Heating	203.00
13235	2/14/18	BizzyWeb, LLC	149.50
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EFILE	2/18/18	Chase Visa Card Services	3,968.35
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13238	2/21/18	City of Blaine	219,587.36

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13248	2/26/18	Bradley Law, LLC	2,012.50
PEACH	2/28/18	Peachtree/Sage Software	19.20
EFILE	2/28/18	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,079.95
EFILE	2/28/18	Public Employees Retirement	3,459.38
EFILE	2/28/18	IRS/US BANK	5,825.13
EFILE	2/28/18	Discovery Benefits	470.00
EPAY-14	2/28/18	Sam's Club	300.00
EPAY-12	2/28/18	Star Tribune	410.28
EPAY-13	2/28/18	Pioneer Press	229.84
EFILE	2/28/18	IRS/US BANK	1,639.89
EFILE	2/28/18	MN Dept. of Revenue	186.72
EFILE	2/28/18	Public Employees Retirement	310.62
Total			<u>449,440.42</u>

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

General Journal

For the Period From Feb 1, 2018 to Feb 28, 2018

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
2/1/18	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	100,697.96	100,697.96
2/1/18	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	7,054.44	7,054.44
2/27/18	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
2/27/18	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	99,067.60	99,067.60
2/27/18	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	7,054.44	7,054.44
Total			226,774.44	226,774.44

North Metro TV

February 2018 Update

Program Production

In February, a total of **87 new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **65:30:00 hours of new programming**.

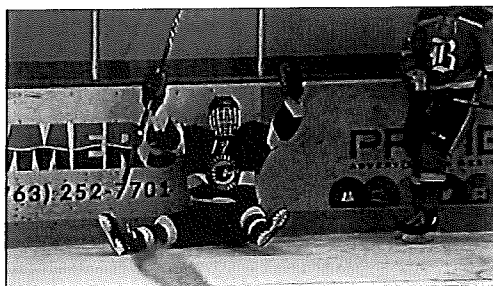
- 37 programs were produced by the public
- 29 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 21 programs were produced by City staff



Van Shoots

The HD truck was used for **60:30:00** hours of production. Events produced live and recorded for additional playbacks include:

- Wrestling: Blaine vs. Centennial
- Girls Hockey: 5AA QF: Maple Grove vs. Spring Lake Park
5AA QF: Blaine vs. Anoka
- Girls Hockey: 5AA SF: Centennial vs. Rogers
- Girls Hockey: 5AA Championship: Centennial vs. Blaine
- Girls Basketball: Spring Lake Park vs. Anoka
- Boys Hockey: 5AA QF: Blaine vs. Spring Lake Park
- Boys Hockey: 5AA SF: Centennial vs. Anoka
- Boys Hockey: 5AA SF: Maple Grove vs. Blaine
- Girls Basketball: 5AAAA QF: Osseo vs. Centennial



Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Open Studio Night	Eric Houston	General Public	4
Special Production Series Class 16	Eric Houston	Blaine/Ham Lake Girl Scouts	10
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Special Production Series Class 17	Eric Houston	Blaine/Ham Lake Girl Scouts	12
Connecting Anoka County Taping	Eric Houston	Video Club	6
Camera	Eric Houston	General Public	2
Movie Night	Eric Houston	Video Club	4
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Special Production Series Class 18	Eric Houston	Blaine/Ham Lake Girl Scouts	8
Early Film Treasures at Spring Lake Park City Hall	Eric Houston	General Public	16
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
11 Workshops			65 Students

Home Movie Transfers

Home movie transfers have become one of our most popular services. Residents can transfer their family videos themselves for free, or pay NMTV to do it. NMTV can also transfer film, slides, and photos for a fee.

Month	Hours Transferred	Tapes	Film Reels	DVDs	Photos/ Slides	Fees Paid
January	201.75	57	122	20	409	\$1,159.00
February	120.5	41	53	15	1,164	\$780.00
TOTAL:	322.25	98	175	35	1,573	\$1,939.00

Public Usage Stats

For statistical purposes, the public access department documents total numbers of unique individuals and total hours of usage of the facility by the general public, every month. These numbers include regular users, class participants, individuals transferring videos, people who attend events, and any other public usage of the facility. The numbers do not take into account the many members of the public who work with any other NMTV department, such as news, sports, municipal, or educational.

Month	Unique Individuals	Total Usage Hours
January	111	460
February	112	685.25
TOTAL PUBLIC USAGE:		1,145.25

Production Highlights

NMTV News Highlights

Each week Danika Peterson and Ben Hayle create a news program that highlights events, people, issues, and information important to citizens of our Member Cities.

Some February highlights include:

- Life Prep Academy Opens Dorm in Spring Lake Park
- Main Street Bridge Closed Through March
- Headshots for the Homeless
- Ham Lake Gets Ready for the 12th Annual Snow Bowl
- Spring Lake Park Leaving Municipal Liquor



In addition to daily playbacks of North Metro TV News on the cable systems, there are over 463 local stories archived for viewers on the NMTV YouTube page. The page can be accessed through the northmetrotv.com website.

Snow Bowl

Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, spent a Saturday in February covering all of the festivities for Ham Lake's 12th Annual Snow Bowl. The video includes interviews with the event organizers and plenty of coverage of all of the festivities, including sliding, fishing, bowling, biking, food, shopping, snow sculptures and contests. The news team, Danika Peterson and Ben Hayle, also did a news story promoting the event.



Classes in the Community

Eric Houston presented his class "Early Film Treasures" at Spring Lake Park City Hall. During the workshop he played 20 very short films that were created between 1888 and 1901, and then the attendees talked about how they were made and their historical significance. This is the second time Eric has taught this class out in the community, with the first being at the Mary Ann Young Senior Center. Both venues have asked him to come back to teach additional classes. He will be presenting his James Bond lecture at the Senior Center this summer and has started scripting and finding video resources for a Jim Henson and the Muppets class. Because the classes are being so well received, Eric plans to contact more City Halls and Community Centers to gauge interest in having classes offered at additional locations.

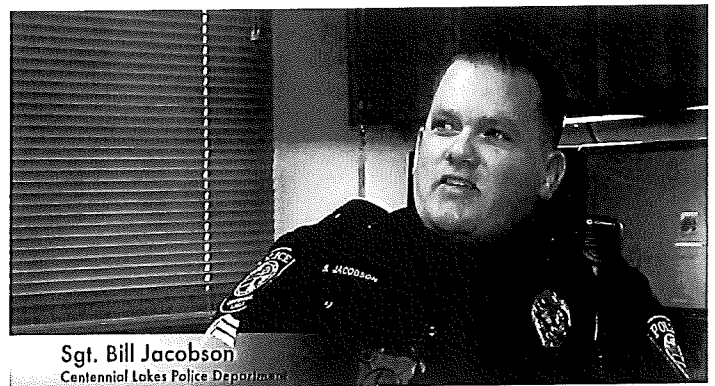


Open Studio Night

Eric Houston organized another Open Studio Night event for the general public. During the evening Eric and members of the Video Club supervise and crew shoots for folks who either can't get their own crew together or just have an idea they would like to make into a show, but need a lot of help. This month, Alan Porter, of Blaine took advantage of the opportunity to produce his first program: Hockey Society - a hockey talk show.

Your City Staff

Two episodes of Your City Staff were produced in February. The first featured Michael Grochala, the Community Development Director for the City of Lino Lakes, and all of responsibilities he has with the City. The second episode highlighted the work of Sergeant Bill Jacobson of the Centennial Lakes Police Department. The videos are presented as a news story on North Metro TV News, and then edited into a stand alone vidoe for the City Channels.



Arrive Alive

T.J. Tronson attended additional meetings with Steve Nanny of the Blaine Police Department to organize and coordinate the annual Arrive Alive project. Two dates were booked for shooting party and driving scenes. The project is being produced with Blaine High School students this year.

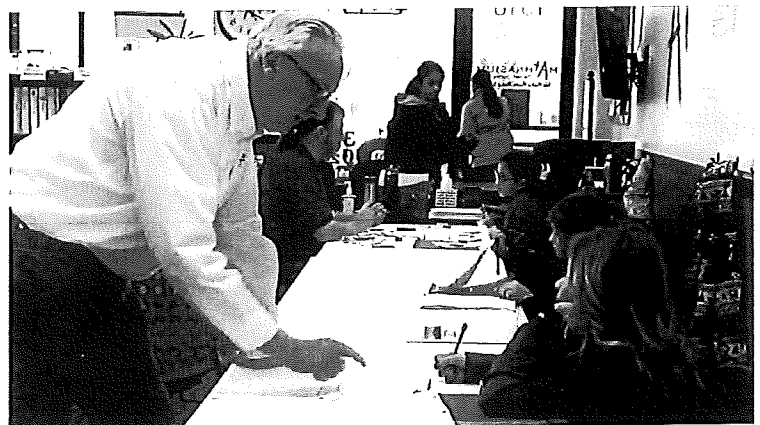
City Productions

Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, completed four projects in February, and worked on several more, including the Lino Lakes annual Guns and Hoses game and Blaine's version of Open to Business.

- Lino Lakes Corrections Facility and Juvenile Center
- Centennial PD Body Cams Updated
- Business Matters: Mathnasium
- Ham Lake Snow Bowl

New and ongoing projects include:

- Editing of Lino Lakes Guns and Hoses charity hockey game
- Shooting a piece for the Blaine City Council regarding the senior center, as requested
- Putting finishing touches on Blaine's version of Open to Business
- Business matters episode featuring Pressed yoga and juice bar in Blaine
- Organized Spring Mayor's Minutes
- Investigating story opportunities with Park and Rec departments with weather getting better
- Talked with Patrick Antonen about District Day plans
- Animal Humane Society dog walkers
- Open to Business, each Cities involvement



- Circle Pines road maintenance project
- Ham Lake senior dance day
- Working on business profiles for QC Dance, Exotic Pet Store
- Arranging interviews with each City's economic developer about Open to Business
- Met with Dave Bartholomay regarding Circle Pines/Centennial School District quarterly series
- Created spreadsheet of all shows running on City channels, updated some of the videos and modified all expiration dates to clean up the channels and know what is playing at all times.

Trevor touches base with contacts on a regular basis and also encourages Cities to contact him whenever they have an idea for a new show.

Production equipment consulting for cities and schools

Blaine

- No equipment assistance requested or required.

Centerville

- No equipment assistance requested or required.

Circle Pines

- No equipment assistance requested or required.

Ham Lake

- 2/21/18: Installed new Carousel server in master control.

Lexington

- No equipment assistance requested or required.

Lino Lakes

- 2/8/18: Ran a network cable for the live stream server in master control.
- 2/8/18: Jeff Karlson called to say that a water heater needs to be replaced, and it is located directly above the new video equipment. If it leaks it will ruin the equipment. May need to disconnect all equipment and move. Will have to take pictures and document current set-up to assure proper re-connection.
- 2/22/18: Moved equipment to allow for water heater removal.
- 2/26/18: Rusty moved equipment back into place. The transmission equipment wasn't powering up. Stopped by and found power strip not turned on. Also reconnected the Comcast feed for the confidence monitor.

Spring Lake Park

- 2/8/18: Installed a better network switch while troubleshooting camera connectivity issues.
- 2/16/18: Talked with Broadcast Pix regarding camera issues. They are looking into ways to correct camera control issues.
- 2/23/18: Sent documentation to Broadcast Pix proving case for a free, newer version of the software.
- 2/27/18: Emailed Wanda regarding software update for Broadcast Pix switcher. Made appointment to install.
- 2/28/18: Installed updated software. It didn't work at all. Contacted Broadcast Pix. Their technical team is working on it.

All Cities

- 2/20/18: Fixed monitoring issues on the Tightrope boxes in master control. Figured out the boxes work better with a 75mhz refresh rate.
- 2/27/18: Contacted Alpha Video for quotes on live stream server and extended warranties and service agreements on all Tightrope equipment in master control.

City Channel 16 Playback Stats

City	Number of Times Programs Played	Hours Programmed on Channel
Blaine	166	260:28:57
Centerville	43	79:02:14
Circle Pines	207	153:09:37
Ham Lake	68	78:05:45
Lexington	94	63:55:24
Lino Lakes	73	73:47:36
Spring Lake Park	93	129:20:37
Totals:	744 Program Playbacks	837:50:04 Hours of Video Programming on Channels

Programs Produced by the Public

Title	Producer	Runtime
Toastmasters Live (2 episodes)	Kent Hawks	01:29:53
Connecting Anoka County: Feeding the Hungry	Julie Jeppson/Eric Houston	00:20:36
Hockey Society	Alan Porter	00:14:27
Chit Chat With Ron Henningsen	Sharon Carlson	00:24:36
It's Only Food With Chef John Politte (7 episodes)	John Politte	01:00:30
Every Movie Ever Made (3 episodes)	Ben Daniels/Ryan Friundschuh, Gavin Van Trease/Eric Houston	01:03:41
Cornerstone Church (2 episodes)	Rick Bostrom	00:00:59:30
The Power of Love (6 episodes)	Rick Larson	03:00:00
LovePower (4 episodes)	Ann Sandell	04:00:00
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting	Theresa Stasica	00:47:10
Hope Church (4 episodes)	Cindy Hardy	03:01:19
Oak Park Moments (5 episodes)	David Turnidge	02:36:52
37 New Programs		18:58:34 New Hours

Programs Produced by NMTV Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Board Meeting (2/13/18)	T.J. Tronson	01:06:29
Anoka County Board Meeting (2/27/18)	T.J. Tronson	01:00:47
NMTC Meeting (2/21/18)	T.J. Tronson	00:28:28
NMTV News (3 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	01:03:03
Your City Staff: Sergeant Bill Jacobson	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	00:05:29
Spring Lake Park to Leave Municipal Liquor	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	00:03:53
Your City Staff: Michael Grochala	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	00:04:11
Ham Lake Snow Bowl Preview	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	00:02:21
Valentines Day in Spring Lake Park	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle/Trevor Scholl	00:02:50
Centennial PD Body Cams Updated	Trevor Scholl	00:08:39
Lino Lakes Corrections Facility and Juvenile Center	Trevor Scholl	00:20:45
Business Matters: Mathnasium	Trevor Scholl	00:06:15
Snow Bowl	Trevor Scholl	00:05:13
Wrestling: Blaine/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:23:35
Girls Hockey: Maple Grove/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:33:04
Girls Hockey: Blaine/Anoka	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:56:44
Girls Hockey: Centennial/Rogers	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:41:46
Girls Hockey: Centennial/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:53:12
Girls Basketball: Spring Lake Park/Anoka	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:19:31
Boys Hockey: Blaine/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:50:32
Boys Hockey: Centennial/Anoka	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:48:40
Boys Hockey: Maple Grove/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:43:43
Girls Basketball: Osseo/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:19:03
Sports Den (4 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:56:20
29 New Programs		22:59:33 New Hours

Programs Produced by City Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (2/1/18)	Blaine Staff	00:58:29
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (2/13/18)	Blaine Staff	00:44:50
Blaine City Council Meeting (2/15/18)	Blaine Staff	02:41:25
Blaine Natural Resources Conservation Board Meeting (2/20/18)	Blaine Staff	01:27:00
Blaine Park Board Meeting (2/27/18)	Blaine Staff	00:52:32
Centerville City Council Meeting (2/14/18)	Centerville Staff	02:02:55
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (2/13/18)	Circle Pines Staff	01:16:36
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (2/21/18)	Circle Pines Staff	00:08:51
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (2/27/18)	Circle Pines Staff	00:37:58
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (2/5/18)	Ham Lake Staff	01:52:55
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (2/12/18)	Ham Lake Staff	00:47:13
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (2/20/18)	Ham Lake Staff	00:17:39
Ham Lake Park & Tree Commission Meeting (2/21/18)	Ham Lake Staff	01:23:39
Lexington City Council Meeting (2/1/18)	Lexington Staff	00:46:23
Lexington City Council Meeting (2/15/18)	Lexington Staff	00:18:58
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (2/12/18)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:33:42
Lino Lakes Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (2/14/18)	Lino Lakes Staff	02:30:59
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (2/26/18)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:30:51
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (2/5/18)	Spring Lake Park Staff	01:25:08
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (2/20/18)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:40:15
Spring Lake Park Planning Commission Meeting (2/26/18)	Spring Lake Park Staff	01:33:26
21 New Programs		23:31:44 New Hours

If you have any questions or comments regarding this monthly report please contact Heidi Arnson at 763.231.2801 or harnson@northmetrotv.com.

NORTH METRO TV

Production Statistics 2018

	J	F	M	A	M	J	JU	A	S	O	N	D	18 Total	18 Average
Programming Statistics														
Cablecast Programs	2644.00	2465.00											5109.00	425.75
Cablecast Hours	2108.00	1995.75											4103.75	341.98
Programs Produced - Public	19.00	27.00											46.00	3.83
Program Hours Produced - Public	12.25	12.50											24.75	2.06
Prog. Produced - Affiliated Public	8.00	10.00											18.00	1.50
Prog. Hours Produced - Affil. Public	5.25	6.50											11.75	0.98
Programs Produced - City Staff	21.00	21.00											42.00	3.50
Prog. Hours Produced - City Staff	20.75	23.50											44.25	3.69
Programs Produced - NMTV Staff	31.00	29.00											60.00	5.00
Prog. Hours Produced - NMTV Staff	21.00	16.50											37.50	3.13
Total Public Programs Produced	27.00	37.00											64.00	5.33
Total Staff Programs Produced	52.00	50.00											102.00	8.50
Total Internal Programs Produced	79.00	87.00											166.00	13.83
% Staff Produced Programs	65.82%	57.47%											61.45%	61.45%
% Public Produced Programs	34.18%	42.53%											38.55%	38.55%
External Programs Submitted	33.00	19.00											52.00	4.33
External Program Hours	24.50	14.00											38.50	3.21
Total New Programs	112.00	106.00											218.00	18.17
Equipment Usage Statistics														
Facility Hours Available	196.00	188.00											384.00	32.00
Public Field Equipment Uses	6.00	12.00											18.00	1.50
Studio A	73.75	76.25											150.00	12.50
% of Available Time	37.63%	40.56%											39.06%	39.06%
Studio B	5.75	28.25											34.00	2.83
% of Available Time	2.93%	15.03%											8.85%	8.85%
Public MAC A Edit Suite	102.75	81.25											184.00	15.33
% of Available Time	52.42%	43.22%											47.92%	6.89%
Public MAC B Edit Suite	101.00	70.25											171.25	14.27
% of Available Time	51.53%	37.37%											44.60%	44.60%
Public MAC C Edit Suite	79.75	67.50											147.25	12.27
% of Available Time	40.69%	35.90%											38.35%	38.35%
Production Van Statistics														
Production Hours	38.00	60.50											98.50	8.21
Number of Van Shoots	6.00	8.00											14.00	1.17
Average Hours Per Shoot	6.33	7.56											7.04	0.68
Number of New Volunteers	3.00	2.00											5.00	0.42
Volunteer Hours	29.00	40.00											69.00	5.75
Public Access Statistics														
Number of Workshops	11.00	11.00											22.00	1.83
Number of Students	78.00	65.00											143.00	11.92
PAP Volunteer Hours	146.75	216.50											363.25	30.27
Total Public Facility Usage Hours	460.00	685.25											1145.25	95.44

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting of March 7, 2018

Executive Cmte. Present: Mike Murphy; Lexington, Cindy Hansen; Spring Lake Park, Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes

Absent: Dick Swanson; Blaine

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 7, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes was made by C. Hansen. Second, D. Stoesz. Motion approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Conducting informal needs assessments and a cable subscriber survey, as part of the franchise renewal, was discussed. A timeline for those activities will be created over the next couple of months.
- Conducting a franchise fee and PEG fee audit of Comcast, as part of the franchise renewal, was discussed. Several of Commission Legal Counsel Mike Bradley's clients are interested in joining a group effort to do so. This could result in savings for the Commission. The Operations Committee recommended that the Cable Commission move forward with a franchise fee and PEG fee audit of Comcast.

MOTION: To move forward with a franchise fee and PEG fee audit of Comcast, as part of the franchise renewal process. **Motion made by C. Hansen. Second, D. Stoesz. Motion approved.**

- The need for municipal drone ordinances and internal usage policies was discussed. The League of Minnesota Cities does not have a model ordinance, but it recommends that Cities adopt one. Commission Legal Counsel, Mike Bradley, will create a model ordinance for Cities and internal usage policies for Cities and Commission if enough interest is expressed. The cost would be a flat fee of \$5,000 for the Commission. Each Member City would receive the model ordinance and internal usage policies. The Commission would also receive internal usage policies. The Operations Committee recommended that the Commission sign up for the drone ordinance project.

MOTION: To join the drone ordinance and policy project for a fee of \$5,000. **Motion made by C. Hansen. Second, D. Stoesz. Motion approved.**

- The CenturyLink 4th Quarter meeting took place on February 27th. Subscriber numbers have dropped by approximately 25% since the end of the 2nd Quarter last year. According to CenturyLink, the drop in subscribers is due to a correction between two billing software systems that did not communicate, and people dropping the service after their contract periods ended. There doesn't seem to be a push to gain new subscribers.

OLD BUSINESS

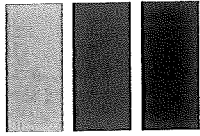
- There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- D. Stoesz asked about the possibility of moving the Cable Commission meeting around to the various Member City halls.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by D. Stoesz. Second, M. Murphy. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.



Bradley

To: Clients and Interested Municipal Attorneys
From: Bradley Berkland Hagen & Herbst, LLC
Re: Drone Policy and Ordinance
Date: February 8, 2018

Drone Policy and Ordinance Project

Drone use is rapidly growing. By 2020, the FAA has estimated that 11 million commercial drones will have been sold in the United States, and the drone industry is projected to have grown, by that time, to \$82bn. The FAA has issued new rules that local governments, including PEG Operators, must comply with.¹ Failure to comply with the FAA's rules can result in civil penalties up to \$27,500 and criminal penalties, including fines, up to \$250,000.

At the NATOA National Annual Conference in Seattle last year, it was recently recommended that all local government entities have two documents in place: (1) an internal Drone Policy for the drone use by the local government, and (2) a Drone Ordinance governing drone use by the general public. The drone policy should address issues such as owning and leasing of drones, required insurance, safety, data retention, chain of custody, use of video/images, and PEG programming. The drone ordinance should address issues such as how and when drones may be used within a city, allowing each city to enforce FAA standards and to protect its citizens.

Deliverable

Drone Policy and Drone Ordinance

Time Frame

We expect to commence the project no later than April 1, 2018 and complete the project by September 1, 2018.

Flat Fee

We will charge a flat fee of \$5,000 per municipal joint powers commissions (covering all member cities) and \$1,000 per individual city. We will require a minimum of four (4) commissions to commence the project.

¹ See 14 C.F.R. Part 107.

About Bradley Berkland Hagen & Herbst, LLC

Bradley Berkland Hagen & Herbst, LLC is a municipal consulting firm assisting local government entities across the country.

Contact Information

Bradley Berkland Hagen & Herbst, LLC

Mike Bradley
2145 Woodlane Drive, Suite 106
Woodbury, MN 55125
mike@bradleylawmn.com
www.BradleyLawMN.com
(651) 379-0900 ext. 101

Request for Policy and Ordinance

- Yes, our local government entity would like to participate in the Drone Policy and Ordinance Project and agree to the flat fee listed above.

City/Commission: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this request to Mike Bradley at mike@bradleylawmn.com, or by fax to (651) 379-0999.

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:39 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

B. Petracek, D. Buchholtz, J. Karlson, P. Antonen, C. Arneson, M. Statz,

MEMBERS ABSENT

D. Krueger

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Arnson

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of February 6, 2017 were approved by consensus.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- A copy of the resolution adopted by the Cable Commission at the February 21st, 2018 meeting was included in the packet. Resolution 2018-01, a Resolution Concerning the Commencement of Renewal Proceedings Under the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, As Amended, marks the Commission's and Cities acknowledgement of the start of the franchise renewal process with Comcast.
- Conducting a franchise fee and Peg fee audit of Comcast, as part of the franchise renewal process was discussed. Commission Legal Counsel, Mike Bradley, is organizing a group effort that would result in shared costs. The Operations Committee recommends that the Cable Commission proceed with conducting a franchise fee and PEG fee audit of Comcast.
- The need for municipal drone ordinances and internal usage policies was discussed. The League of Minnesota Cities does not have a model ordinance, but it recommends that Cities adopt one. Commission Legal Counsel, Mike Bradley, will create a model ordinance for Cities and internal usage policies for Cities and Commissions if enough interest is expressed. The Operations Committee believed it would be beneficial to have such an ordinance and policy in place as drones are only going to become more popular. The Committee recommends that the Cable Commission sign up for the drone ordinance project, with Mike Bradley, for a fee of \$5,000.
- The CenturyLink 4th Quarter meeting took place on Tuesday, February 27th. Subscriber numbers have dropped by approximately 25% since the end of the 2nd Quarter last year. According to CenturyLink the drop in subscribers is due to a correction between two billing software systems that did not communicate, and people dropping the service after their contract periods ended. There doesn't seem to be a push to gain new subscribers.

OLD BUSINESS

- J. Karlson requested information regarding the progress of the small cell ordinance project with Mike Bradley. H. Arnson stated that she would contact Mr. Bradley for the information.

NEW BUSINESS

- B. Petracek requested that Matt Waldron create an HD upgrade proposal for Lexington with ball park figures, to help in the planning process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.



CONNECTING & INNOVATING
SINCE 1913

LIABILITY COVERAGE – WAIVER FORM

LMCIT members purchasing coverage must complete and return this form to LMCIT before the effective date of the coverage. Please return the completed form to your underwriter or email to ps tech@lmc.org

This decision must be made by the member's governing body every year. You may also wish to discuss these issues with your attorney.

League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) members that obtain liability coverage from LMCIT must decide whether to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. The decision has the following effects:

- *If the member does not waive the statutory tort limits*, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits apply regardless of whether the city purchases the optional excess liability coverage.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and does not purchase excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover up to \$2,000,000 for a single occurrence. (Under this option, the tort cap liability limits are waived to the extent of the member's liability coverage limits, and the LMCIT per occurrence limit is \$2 million.) The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$2,000,000, regardless of the number of claimants.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

Claims to which the statutory municipal tort limits do not apply are not affected by this decision.

LMCIT Member Name _____

Check one:

- ☐ The member **DOES NOT WAIVE** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04.
- ☐ The member **WAIVES** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04 to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.

Date of city council/governing body meeting _____

Signature _____

Position _____

This Document can be made available
in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 3497

03/08/2018 Authored by O'Neill

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to telecommunications; limiting application fees for certain wireless facility
- 1.3 applications; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 462.353, by adding a
- 1.4 subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 394.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. **[394.38] FEES; WIRELESS FACILITY.**
- 1.7 (a) This section applies to an application to install a new or replacement wireless facility
- 1.8 on (1) a new or existing structure specifically designed to support wireless facilities, or (2)
- 1.9 a water tower, building, or other structure designed primarily for other purposes.
- 1.10 (b) A local government unit must limit an application fee to the actual cost incurred,
- 1.11 including the cost of any third-party consultant used to assist with the application review.
- 1.12 A local government unit is prohibited from imposing an application fee under this section
- 1.13 that exceeds \$3,000.
- 1.14 (c) For the purposes of this section, "wireless facility" means equipment at a fixed
- 1.15 location that enables the provision of wireless services between user equipment and a
- 1.16 wireless service network. Wireless facility includes an adjacent facility used to store
- 1.17 equipment necessary to support the wireless facility, but does not include a small wireless
- 1.18 facility as defined in section 237.162.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 462.353, is amended by adding a subdivision to
2.2 read:

2.3 Subd. 4b. Fees; wireless facility. (a) This subdivision applies to an application to install
2.4 a new or replacement wireless facility on (1) a new or existing structure specifically designed
2.5 to support wireless facilities, or (2) a water tower, building, or other structure designed
2.6 primarily for other purposes.

2.7 (b) A local government unit must limit an application fee to the actual cost incurred,
2.8 including the cost of any third-party consultant used to assist with the application review.
2.9 A local government unit is prohibited from imposing an application fee under this subdivision
2.10 that exceeds \$3,000.

2.11 (c) For the purposes of this section, "wireless facility" means equipment at a fixed
2.12 location that enables the provision of wireless services between user equipment and a
2.13 wireless service network. Wireless facility includes an adjacent facility used to store
2.14 equipment necessary to support the wireless facility, but does not include a small wireless
2.15 facility as defined in section 237.162.

2.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and
2.17 applies to an application filed on or after that date.



February 28, 2018

Ms. Heidi Arnson
Cable Administrator
North Metro Telecommunications
12520 Polk Street Northeast
Blaine, MN 55434

Dear Heidi:

We are committed to making our products, services, and experiences accessible to the widest possible audience, and opening new doors to independence for people with disabilities.

Products & Services: Our X1 platform is one of the most accessible TV platforms in the world. We have a talking guide that reads aloud on-screen menus and text, a voice-controlled remote that makes searching for content simple, and easy access to programming with video description and closed captions.

Content: Programming with video description – a narration track between the natural pauses in the dialogue that describes the action happening on-screen – has had a meaningful impact on the way people with disabilities enjoy entertainment.

Partners: We have established relationships with organizations and advocacy groups from the disability community to test our products and services, provide us with feedback, and partner with us on initiatives that will make an impact.

Theme Parks: We are always working to create a more inclusive entertainment experience for guests with disabilities at our theme parks.

Awards & Recognition: Our work has received national recognition from groups like the Federal Communications Commission, the American Association of People with Disabilities and the American Foundation for the Blind.

Innovation: The Comcast Accessibility Lab gives our product designers, technologists, and engineers the opportunity to work with an array of assistive technologies – like screen readers, assisted listening devices, and eye tracking solutions – that make our own products and experiences more accessible.

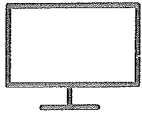
Help & Support: We created an online help and support resources for customers looking for information about accessibility-related services and have a service center that includes a team of specially trained care agents dedicated to customers with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Karly Werner
Sr. Director, External Affairs



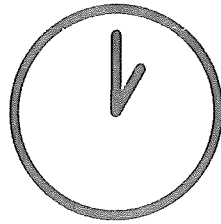
Visually Impaired Adults Tune-In to TV About as Much as Everyone Else



96%
OF VISUALLY
IMPAIRED
ADULTS WATCH
TELEVISION ON A
REGULAR BASIS

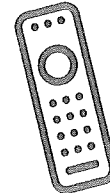


65%
ENCOUNTER
PROBLEMS
WITH
LOOKING
UP WHAT'S
ON TV



81%
OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED
ADULTS WATCH MORE
THAN AN HOUR PER DAY

LESS THAN
50%
ARE AWARE
OF ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGIES
LIKE VIDEO
DESCRIPTION
AND TALKING
TV GUIDES



55%
WATCH
FOUR
HOURS OF
TV OR
MORE PER DAY

Comcast and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) commissioned a survey of people with visual disabilities to gauge their TV-watching behaviors and awareness of accessible technologies.


<https://corporate.comcast.com/values/accessibility>

Is Paid Prioritization the New Privacy?



Rewired
[Carol Wilson](#),
[Editor-at-large](#)

2/28/2018

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The year was 2008, I think, and [Verizon Communications Inc.](#) (NYSE: VZ) had opened up its innovation lab in Waltham, Mass., allowing industry analysts and press to get a glimpse of what it was working on for the future. One of the primary exhibits was a smart home that featured, among other things, automatic downloading of photos from a cellphone to the cloud when you walked in your door, and a way of delivering targeted advertising that was very new and exciting, but also a little bit creepy.

The interactive ad capability involved tracking your web browsing history while at home and then targeting ads to individuals based on your online interests and your demographics. For example, a 50-year-old woman who was researching a trip to Italy online would, when she sat down to watch *Grey's Anatomy* or *Dancing with the Stars*, see ads for Italy tours or cruises, travel clothes and gear, airlines, etc. What she would not see would be commercials for diapers, the Olive Garden or beer.



"We hear you're off to Italy..."

The Verizon folks doing the tour were very careful to say that this was just a prototype and not something they would implement, given concerns about consumer privacy.

I was personally intrigued, mostly because I had entered the DVR phase of my life and wasn't watching many commercials but thought I might watch the ads if they were relevant. But most of the other folks on the tour said consumers would never allow a phone company to track their online activity in that manner. Maybe that's why the service never made it out of the lab.

Ten years on, of course, we are all well aware that we are being tracked online by [Google](#) (Nasdaq: GOOG), [Facebook](#) and others, and often stalked by items we once viewed but didn't buy -- or even that we have already purchased. Now many of us are coming to terms with the reality that our smartphones or in-home assistants such as Amazon Echo and Google Home are listening intently to what we discuss and using those discussions as the jumping-off point to bombard us with new ads.

The first time it happens, it comes as a shock: A friend of mine and his wife were discussing a specific vitamin supplement one of them had used years earlier in recovering from an injury and the next day, both had ads for that vitamin pop up on their newsfeeds. They immediately disabled the microphone access on their smartphone apps.

Research shows, however, that many people, especially millennials, shrug their shoulders and move on, willing to give up privacy for convenience. And I'm willing to bet that over time, the majority of folks accept some "big brother" aspects to all this intelligence, if they feel it benefits them in the long run. Not everyone, mind you, but most.

How can operators develop solutions for the growth of video, AR and VR? Boost your understanding of video and immersive experience trends &ndash join us in Austin at the fifth annual [Big Communications Event](#) May 14-16.

The event is free for communications service providers!

So let's apply that shift in thinking to another current controversy: paid prioritization. Right now, this is the bogeyman of the net neutrality debate, with proponents of net neutrality laws insisting that this amounts to fast lanes for those who can pay more, and slow lanes for everyone else, including startups and innovators.

As [AT&T Inc.](#) (NYSE: T) states [this recent blog](#), in this recent blog, however, there is a different side of paid prioritization. Some newer technologies and applications -- including "autonomous cars, remote surgery, enhanced first responder communications and virtual reality services" -- require a different treatment than other, less critical or latency-sensitive traffic would need. This

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isn't just a bandwidth debate, which is what the popular discussion of net neutrality revolves around most; it's also about delay, jitter and other characteristics of a managed end-to-end service that can guarantee performance.

For me, it makes sense to allow ISPs to tailor how traffic is treated to the specific needs of that traffic, in a managed service context. The question is whether the industry can elevate the debate around net neutrality above the emotional level at which it exists now.

I think this, like the privacy concerns, is an evolutionary process that doesn't have a guaranteed outcome at this point. In his blog, AT&T's Bob Quinn, senior executive vice president of External & Legislative Affairs, says the 2015 net neutrality rules being rolled back in April would have required ISPs to get government permission to offer a managed services approach for innovative offerings, which would slow things down considerably.

"My intent is not to dredge up an old debate but rather to suggest that, as we strive to reach consensus on a consumer framework for the Internet, we have a conversation to figure out how to ban fast lanes and slow lanes, while also ensuring that innovative, new, real-time technologies like those described above continue to live in a world where permission-less innovation exists," he argues.

Ten years from now, will concerns over paid prioritization have taken a back seat the way those over privacy seem to have? I think they might. Do you?

— Carol Wilson, Editor-at-Large, [Light Reading](#)

 (2) | [Comment](#) | [Print](#) | [RSS](#)

Comcast Bid May Spark War for Sky

Move for European satellite firm could also throw wrench into Disney-Fox plans

BY MIKE FARRELL

COMCAST HAS RAISED EYEBROWS with its unsolicited \$31 billion bid for U.K. satellite giant Sky, a move that both threw sand in the face of 21st Century Fox executive chairman Rupert Murdoch — who has been trying to consolidate the asset for years — and could solidify the U.S. MSO's stature as king of all media.

Sky is the largest pay TV operator in Europe, with 23 million customers in the U.K., Germany and Italy. It owns original and licensed content and sports, including the coveted domestic rights to English Premier League soccer games. (Comcast's NBCUniversal is the league's U.S. rights holder.)

Sky fits almost every criterion for a Comcast takeover — it's a leader in its field, it is underappreciated, and perhaps more importantly it has ownership that is under pressure.

Fox, which owns 39% of Sky, has tried to consolidate the company for years. It first tried in 2011, but pulled its offer after a hacking scandal at its British tabloid newspapers made it unlikely a deal would be approved. Fox returned with a sweeter offer in December 2016, valued at £10.75 per share, but has run afoul

of British regulators concerned with placing too much power in one company's hands. Comcast's bid, at £12.50 per share, represents a 16% premium to Fox's offer.

Key to Disney Deal

Sky is an integral part of Fox's sale of certain assets to The Walt Disney Co. — its content and sports assets jibe well with Disney's own content holdings, many which are already distributed on the platform. Sky also has a compelling OTT product — Sky Now — which fits with Disney's direct-to-consumer strategy, and Disney chief Bob Iger has called the satellite service a "crown jewel" among the Fox assets.

Fox had hoped to finish the Sky consolidation before the Disney deal closed and to transfer full ownership to the content giant once the deal was completed.

But now that is in limbo. According to BTIG media analyst Rich Greenfield, Fox has four choices: 1) increase its Sky offer and start a bidding war with Comcast; 2) start a conversation with Comcast for all of the Fox assets, while Comcast bids for the remaining 61% of Sky; 3) get Disney to work out a compromise with Comcast, like offering up its stake in Hulu, the Fox production studios (minus the Marvel content) and cable channel FX to back off; or 4) refuse to increase its bid, leaving Disney with the option of either selling its stake in Sky or being a minority partner with Comcast.

Options one and three seem most likely, Greenfield said.

Fox has said publicly that it stands by its December 2016 offer for Sky and hopes it will pass regulatory muster, while noting that Comcast hasn't actually made a formal bid. Comcast, in announcing the deal publicly,

said its bid was the first stage in the process and it hopes to work with Sky's independent directors to hammer out a proposal.




















The prospect of a mogul war between Comcast chairman and CEO Brian Roberts and Murdoch seemed not to sit well with some of the cable firm's investors, who drove the stock down about 7% after the Feb. 27 announcement.

But they seemed to settle

down — the stock has started to slowly crawl back in subsequent trading — when it became apparent the deal makes more sense than they might have initially thought.

SKY'S THE LIMIT

Comcast's potential purchase of satellite TV distributor Sky also includes some compelling sports, news and entertainment properties.

	Comcast NBCUniversal	Sky	
Sports	  	  	Enables multi-national sports offerings
Entertainment	  	  	Allows sharing of premier owned content
News	 		Grows Sky and NBC News market positions
Brands	  		Creates portfolio of valued brands

SOURCE: Comcast

Gaining Global Reach

Sky would give Comcast tremendous scale, and scale is key to Comcast's desire for Sky. Pivotal Research Group CEO and senior media & communications analyst Jeff Wlodarczyk said. With Sky's 23 million customers, its set-top box technology and its content, Comcast could create a pan-European virtual MVPD and then further leverage its position as the No.1 distributor in the U.S. and Europe to launch a global service. ■

FTC Prepping for Broadband Power Play

Court clears way for oversight; edge could be in play



BY JOHN EGGERTON

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WASHINGTON — A federal court has loosened Democrats' hold on a "sky is going to fall" campaign against the Federal Communications Commission's elimination of network neutrality rules.

The move helps pave the way for a Federal Trade Commission — soon to be at full strength, if Congress does its job — poised to oversee both internet service providers and edge providers.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Feb. 26 that the FTC can wield its authority over unfair, deceptive or anticompetitive broadband practices even if the parent company is a common carrier.

Common carriers are exempt from FTC oversight and a three-judge panel of the same court had earlier ruled that the exemption covered not only AT&T's phone business, but its broadband business as well.

Filling a Gap

That left a potentially huge regulatory gap with the FCC eliminating rules against blocking, throttling and paid prioritization — a move activists and Democrats talked up in the days before the FCC vote on the Restoring Internet Freedom Order.

The court recognized that gap and cited it in deciding to fill it.

Per a memorandum of understanding

with the FCC about enforcement of the new internet regulatory framework, the FTC will investigate ISPs for any divergence from what they say they are, or are not, doing, as well as any other practices the FTC deems unfair or

deceptive. That unfairness could include anticompetitive blocking or throttling or paid prioritization. FCC chair Ajit Pai has stated that this will be a "robust process" for protecting internet openness.

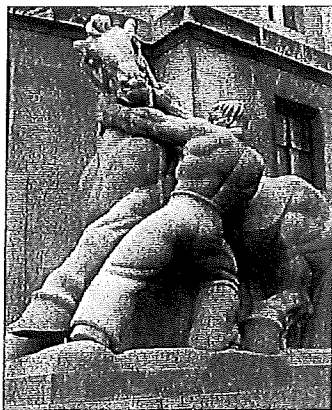
House Republican leaders were quick to use the decision to buttress their case for the FCC's regulatory rule rollback (see box).

Democrats were praising the court decision last week as well, although they had to take something off those cheers.

"Today's 9th Circuit ruling is a win for consumers," Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) said. "But this decision does not fix the hole created by Republicans who stopped the FCC from enforcing strong privacy."

The FTC could be minding more than just ISPs. The four new nominees to the commission were voted out of the Senate Commerce Committee last week and are headed to the Senate floor for a vote.

All of them said at their confirmation hearings that they would be willing to look into the growing power of edge providers in the vaunted internet ecosystem, something Democrats are increasingly pushing for. ■



The 9th Circuit ruling paves the way for ISPs to be overseen by the FTC.

Republicans Laud FTC for ISP Oversight

HOUSE REPUBLICANS promoted a number of Federal Trade Commission actions to demonstrate why, in their view, the FTC is well equipped to enforce ISP conduct if it is deceptive, unfair or anticompetitive. The suggestions come even though no federal appeals court has clarified the agency's broadband enforcement authority. A fifth action, also listed below, refers to an FTC decision that came out after the list was compiled.

- "In 2011, Facebook settled charges with the FTC that it deceived consumers by failing to keep privacy promises. The settlement required Facebook to give consumers clear and prominent notice of changes to privacy settings, and ensure it gets consent before it changes the way it shares their data."

- "In 2012, the FTC fined Google \$22.5 million after it violated a previous consent order promising not to place tracking cookies or targeted ads on users of Apple's Safari web browser."

- "In 2014, T-Mobile agreed to pay \$90 million, including \$67.5 million for customer refunds, to settle the FTC case that it had included hidden charges in customers' wireless bills."

- "In 2015, TracFone agreed to pay \$40 million to the FTC to settle charges that it throttled 'unlimited' data plans without telling consumers. Affected consumers were then eligible for a refund."

- The FTC settled a complaint with PayPal on Feb. 27 that included charges its Venmo payment service misled consumers about the privacy of their online transactions and did not sufficiently secure customer data. — JE

SOURCES: 1-4, House Energy & Commerce Committee majority staffers; 5, FTC