WHAT'S THAT? IS THERE A CONCERT OR SOMETHING?

IT'S A TOWN HALL MEETING FOR THE CHARTER COMMISSION.

YOU KNOW, TO UPDATE THE CITY CHARTER?

THE CHARTER IS THE LEGAL DOCUMENT LAYING OUT ALL THE ESSENTIAL RULES FOR HOW OUR CITY GOVERNMENT WORKS.

AND WE'RE ... REVIEWING IT? DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN CHANGE IT?
You bet!

Voters have amended the charter dozens of times since 1913.

We expanded our city boundaries. We created special taxes for parks. In fact, this citizens' commission is one of our recent changes.

1928
Welcome to Portland

1950
Public park coming soon

2007
Voters approve 10-year review

So what's different about this commission?

Good question!

We're trying to get more Portlanders involved before they get to the ballot box.

More public input helps us figure out what the charter needs to succeed, and helps people understand why changes are needed at all.
I GUESS I'M STILL CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT THE CHARTER DOES.

THE CHARTER IS LIKE A BRIDGE.

BRIDGES ARE STRUCTURES THAT HELP US MOVE FROM WHERE WE ARE TO A PLACE WE WANT TO BE.

BUT NOT ALL BRIDGES ARE THE SAME.

THEY LOOK DIFFERENT.

THEY SERVE DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

SOME OF THEM ARE FLEXIBLE SO THEY CAN RESPOND TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE CHARTER IS THE FRAMEWORK WE USE TO GET FROM THE PORTLAND WE HAVE TODAY TO THE PORTLAND WE WANT TO SEE.

THE CHARTER COMMISSION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FIGURING OUT THE BEST DESIGN FOR OUR BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE.
You’re saying this commission is basically in charge of rewriting the constitution for Portland?

What a huge job!

That’s why the charter commission needs all the help it can get from the rest of us!

How can a regular person like me help? I don’t know anything about government.

I guess we all have some ideas about what needs to change around here.

We sure could use more affordable housing.

Not to mention a justice system we can trust!

I’d like to see city resources distributed more fairly.

I want climate justice! …and another muffin.
So how does this work? Does the charter commission cross out all the rules and start from scratch?

Well...

First, the charter commission comes up with some broad ideas.

Then they talk to people to find out what they think.

They revise and refine based on public feedback.

The goal is a set of reforms that everyone can live with.

Then they send it out for a vote, depending on how many commissioners support it.

**Fewer than 10 approve**

- Proposal fails

**Approval of 10 - 14 members**

- Goes to the city council for a vote

**Approval of 15+ members**

- Goes to a citywide referendum
WHO SITS ON THE CHARTER COMMISSION ANYWAY?
ARE THEY ALL RICH AND POWERFUL PEOPLE?

NOT AT ALL. CHECK IT OUT FOR YOURSELF.

THESE PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKE US THAN I EXPECTED.

STUDENT
MEDIATOR
RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE
ACCESSIBILITY EXPERT
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST
TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON

I WANT TO PARTICIPATE, BUT I'M WITH MY KIDS AFTER WORK.

THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

ALL RIGHT, LET ME HAVE ONE OF THOSE.

ONLINE SURVEY
PAPER SURVEY
VIDEO CALL

TAKE A FEW! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

THE CHARTER BELONGS TO ALL OF US AND WE SHOULD ALL HAVE A VOICE IN WHAT IT SAYS!