

ORDINANCE NO. 189-2023(AS), *Third  
Reading as Amended*

*Amended 2/5/24*

By Vice President Russell

An Ordinance repealing Chapter 148, "Youth Advisory Commission" of Part One, *Administrative Code*, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, and adopting a replacement Chapter 148, "Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board."

WHEREAS, Cleveland Heights City Council recognizes that our youth are our future and a very important part of our community. Their opinion, advice, recommendation, creativity, and their involvement in recreation programming, community relations, parks maintenance, and the creation of recreational spaces is vital to a healthy and vital community; and.

WHEREAS, the purpose of creating a Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board is to promote the involvement of youth aged 15 to 23 and provide opportunities for them to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns about matters that truly matter to them; and

WHEREAS, as members of the Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board young people will influence local decision-making, provide insights and perspectives that will be pivotal in shaping political decisions that affect Cleveland Heights in matters related to parks and recreation, youth programming, and community relations within the City of Cleveland Heights, and impact how our community tackle essential issues directly; and

WHEREAS, their participation as Board members will enable them to advocate for important causes for themselves and their peers and to drive positive change through collaboration with local officials, community leaders, and organizations; and

WHEREAS, serving on the Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board can help youth develop essential personal and professional growth, leadership, communication and teamwork skills that will prove valuable over their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, existing Chapter 148 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights provided for a Youth Advisory Commission to advise Council about youth issues and concerns generally, but said commission has not been active for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, this Council desires to modify Chapter 148 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights to establish a Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board.

ORDINANCE NO. 189-2023(AS)

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. An amended Chapter 148, "Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board," of Part One, *Administrative Code*, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, is hereby adopted and shall read as follows:

**148.01 Composition and Membership**

The Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board shall consist of up to 9 but no more than 18 members aged 15 to 23 years, at the time of their appointment, who are residents of either Cleveland Heights or the Cleveland Heights University Heights School District (including those portions that are outside of the City limits but within the District Boundaries), who shall be appointed by application to City Council with at least six (6) from public high schools (Heights High School and/or Shaw High School) including (two (2) freshmen, two (2) sophomores and two (2) juniors), and at least one third from private, parochial or home-schooled entities. In addition, there shall be three (3) nonvoting adult Board members: the Chair of Council's Community Relations and Recreation Committee, a Cleveland Heights Library administrator, and a Cleveland Heights High school teacher appointed by the Cleveland Heights School District.

All applications shall be accompanied by three (3) letters of recommendation independent of a family member.

Members of the Board shall be appointed by the City Council without reference to an applicant's grade point average, shall serve for a term of twenty (20) months as described herein and may be reappointed for one additional term. A youth member may be reappointed to one additional term beginning in or after their senior year. Terms shall commence October 1st and shall end May 30 of the second year following the year in which the October 1 appointment is made.

City Council shall seek to make appointments that fairly represent the diversity of the City, taking into account important considerations such as geographic diversity and diversity of race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual identity and orientation.

**148.02 Responsibilities and Duties**

(a) The Board shall provide recommendations to Council on matters related to parks and recreation including but not limited to the development of recreational programs, parks maintenance and the creation and use of recreational spaces.

(b) The Board shall promote positive community relations and engagement among youth of all ages by organizing events, workshops, and initiatives that encourage interaction and understanding among different age segments of our community along with engaging with the commission on aging to help promote senior activity between the youth and senior in our community.

**148.03 Meetings and Procedures**

- (a) The Board shall meet at least nine times per year, with a schedule of regular meetings to be determined by the Board. All meetings shall be open to the public. At least annually, the Board shall hold a youth open public town hall meeting to report and summarize its activities, accomplishments, recommendations and concerns. A copy of the report will be provided to the Council and the Mayor in advance of the public meeting. Board meetings shall be held at City Hall or as otherwise authorized by the Codified Ordinances
- (b) A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum and Board action shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members.
- (c) The Board may establish its own bylaws, subject to approval of the City's Director of Law, and shall elect its own chair, vice chair, and secretary.
- (d) The Mayor may appoint a City employee to provide support and assistance to the Board in carrying out its responsibilities and to keep a record of all meetings of the Commission.
- (e) No compensation shall be paid to any member of the Youth Advisory Commission for services performed on this Commission. The City may provide a meal for members at each of the Board meetings, and the expense of any such meals is hereby determined to be a proper public purpose.

**148.04 Reporting**

The Board shall submit a report and recommendations to the Council annually related to parks and recreation, community relations programming, and Board activities and accomplishments, and shall report quarterly at the Community Relations and Recreation Committee meeting.

SECTION 2. Current Chapter 148 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, as it existed prior to the effective date of this ordinance, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Notice of passage of this Ordinance shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time permitted by law.

ORDINANCE NO. 189-2023(AS)



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TONY CUDA  
President of Council



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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council

PASSED: February 5, 2024

Presented to Mayor: 02/07/2024 Approved by Mayor: 02/15/2024



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KAHLIL SEREN  
Mayor