

At Gwinnett Senior Golden Games

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2026

- The meeting was called to order at 10 am by Acting President Kim Shealy.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by all in attendance and lead by James Robinson, one of our many veterans.
- INVOCATION by Glory Villavasso, a past officer of the Golden Games.
- INTRODUCTIONS OF ATTENDEES: All present introduced themselves to the group.
- MINUTES: Minutes from the May 2026 meeting were addressed. Kathryn Hall made the motion to accept them and Kim Shealy second. They were approved unanimously.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathryn Hall, treasurer of the Golden Games, then addressed items starting with the bank balance which as of April 20th is \$6,113.58 dollars in our account. Two donations in July totaling \$1,100. She also announced that Alan Villavasso, a past president of the games, had thrown out a challenge for participants to make a \$100.00 donation to the Games.
 - There are going to be three sets of tickets that will be raffled off at the Opening Ceremony including Braves tickets, Stripers tickets and Fernbank Museum tickets.
 - Kathryn informed the meeting that our new color brochure was designed by a friend of hers (graphic designer) for free. Everyone loves the brochure and thinks that it will help bring

in new Gamers. There is a convenient QR code on the back for easy access to our website. Everyone was encouraged to pick up a brochure and spread the word about the Golden Games.

- Kathryn gave a report on the Generation Expo that occurred on June 17. It was a great event. Darlene did a good job at the Generations Expo. Many participants picked up brochures and expressed interest in the Golden Games. Kathryn met with lots of Activities Directors from local senior living facilities and has booked speakers that she met also, They are as follows:

- October – Nathan Coflin on Medicare Fraud
- November – Jessica Kanazawa, Ardell Senior Benefits, to address Medicare and Health insurance questions
- January – Gwinnett County Public Library representative
- February- Attorney Mike Levengood on wills, trusts, and legal issues for seniors
- March – Altuvo Senior Placement Concierge, a personal senior placement concierge, representative will discuss moving service, medical care coordination and issues related to relocation.

- Thanks to Kathryn for lining up all these future speakers!
- Event Managers training will be held at 10 am on August 11 at Rhodes Jordon Park.

- Motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to adopt the Treasurer's report.
- LEADERSHIP CHANGES – Acting President Kim Shealy took over the meeting from this point. The next item on the agenda was

what happened with the change in leadership for the Games. The former president, Jenifer Echols, was very kind and willing to take on the mantle of President and we were very excited for her enthusiasm for the job. The duties of the President are quite extensive, and no one can know how much time and effort goes into it until you are in that position. Unfortunately, Jenifer did not have the time to fully engage with all her other activities. An email was sent out to the Executive Board asking for suggestions as to how to handle the situation. Before a decision had been made, Jenifer was made aware of the email and its contents and resigned before the Board had even spoken to her. It was a very regrettable occurrence and since then the person who shared the email with her has been asked to resign from the Board and he has done so. We are truly distressed that this happened and do not blame Jenifer for being upset, The 2025 Executive Board will now run the games after the Vice President, Johnny Blaha, requested that it be handled that way as he would not have the time to learn and handle all duties needed.

- **INCREASE IN REGISTRATION FEES** – Kim Shealy provided an explanation of the application fee increase was given. The former amount of \$20.00 did not come close to what it actually cost for each participant, which is \$56.00. A reduction in costs – no more catering of meals, a change from medals to pins, Northside Hospital donating our t-shirts, etc. – has not changed the fact that we were losing money every year. We appreciate the understanding of our athletes.
- **MOVING GAMES EQUIPMENT** – Equipment for the Games needs to be moved at Rhodes Jordan from the storage building to the

Community Center where it will be kept in a storage closet.

Equipment will be moved beginning at 10 am on Tuesday, August 4th. Volunteers were requested to help.

- OPENING CEREMONY – will be held on August 14, 2026, at Bethesda Park. Torchbearers will be Bob and Eileen Giselsbach. A picture of them from 2012 when they first were honored was enlarged and will be carried in their place by Alan Villavasso. Glory Villavasso will carry the torch.
- Our Opening Ceremonies meal will be anchored by a chicken casserole. The theme is red, white and blue in honor of our country's 250th birthday.
 - Set up time for Opening Ceremony will be 5:00 pm on August 13, 2026. Volunteers were solicited.
 - Chefs for kitchen assistance were solicited and need to arrive by 9:30 am on August 14th.
 - Following the Opening Ceremony, assistance will be needed to clean up the room and relocate supplies back to Rhodes Jordan.
- Our Closing Ceremonies will feature a taco bar. For both events, we need volunteers for the front table check-in, kitchen – be there by 9:30am, clean-up, and moving supplies back to Rhodes Jordan.
- EVENT MANAGERS: Event managers are still needed for three venues: Bowling; Bocce(previous manager Tena Standfield had recently undergone back surgery); and Softball.
- There are currently 39 participants registered for the Games.

- Yvette McKenzie and Jo Farmer gave our organization congratulations on how well our Games are run – a compliment surely needed after the events of the last month,
- ANOTHER FUNDRAISER: Kim Shealy announced we are participating in another fund-raising activity for our organization. Book donations made to our Games will be handled by a company called “Sell Your Books” which handles shipping to customers for a percentage of the sale price and the rest going to the Games. They in turn support after-school programs for local schools. Win, win!
- HEALTH FAIR – The annual health fair will be held at Bethesda Park on October 16th. Volunteers are needed to man the booth from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm.
- Attendees outside of the Games were then asked for announcements.
 - Gracie was kind enough to share her future school schedule. She is taking some tough classes!
 - Jessica Kanazawa, Ardell Senior Benefits, informed us that new Medicare plan rollouts will occur in August and September, so by Closing Ceremony she will have all relevant information. She has a new website and welcomes reviews of it.
 - Abby from Northside Hospital said that a representative from the system will be at all the events, Kim asked what the #1 health concern for seniors is currently and Abby declared that it is falls. Alan concurred.

- Tenita from Gwinnett Park and Recreation announced that a new building will be opening at Lenora Park as well as a senior club. Programs will start in September.
- Holly stated that Senior Day at Bethesda Park will be August 21. There will be a food truck event on September 8th, a seed swap on September 12th, a Veterans brunch on October 4th and the aforementioned Health Fair on October 16th.
- Hans Heiserer, Keller Williams and Games Sponsor, explained that a planned event on July 14th did not happen as there was low registration. He did meet with activities directors who explained that seniors want a tangible object such as paper in-hand with information and very little computer activity. He would like for us to do joint events with him and bring games and activities having to do with the Games.
- COUNTY BUSINESS: Kevin with Gwinnett Parks gave the following upcoming activities:
 - Aquarium trip – already filled
 - August 29 – food truck event - 11:30a – 2:30p – Rhodes Jordan
 - September 18-19 – Campout event – s’mores will be made! – Tribble Mill
 - October 3 - Fall Bark Market – dog supply vendors – Alexander
 - October 13-30 – Advance voting at various parks – you may vote at any park
 - Janice informed us that there will be a watercolor painting event at Vines Park with a cost of \$15.00

- Information about these events is available at the GwinnettParks.com website.
 - NEXT MEETING will be held during Opening Ceremony on August 14, 2026. Registration is from 10 to 10:45 am and the ceremony begins at 11:00 am.
 - ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made to adjourn, seconded and unanimously approved. Kim adjourned the meeting at 11:29am.
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