

# THE CHILDREN OF FATHER CAMIÑAS

## MINUTES OF INCORPORATION MEETING

DATE: Saturday May 6, 2023

LOCATION: Miami Outboard Club, Watson Island

Meeting start: Approximately 12:00 pm

Meeting end: Approximately 3:30 pm

### **Present:**

Adalberto Socas, Julio Cesar Cespedes, Manny Mendez, Orlando Arrom and another twelve "Choripan" men, as the participants will be referred to in the annals of this corporation henceforth.

Also present was Father Federico Capdepón

### **Definitions:**

"Choripan" has become how the Cuban exile community refers to the then unaccompanied children who were sent to Spain in exile by their parents in the 1960's. This is a reference to "Pedro Pan" the other program run by the Catholic Church that handled unaccompanied Cuban children also sent in exile by their parents but who went to foster families and Catholic Church facilities in the US instead.

Father Federico Capdepón was one of the young seminarians who attended the Choripan children at the refugee camps in Spain in the 1960's

### **Minutes:**

On the occasion of the regular monthly Choripan luncheon meeting on the first Saturday of every month and at the request of Adalberto Socas and Julio Cesar Cespedes, Orlando Arrom prepared and presented Articles of Incorporation for "The Children of Father Caminas, Inc." a Florida Non-Profit Corporation. The purposes of which are outlined within these Articles which are attached hereto. The corporation will seek approval from the IRS to be classified as a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization. This will allow donors to make tax deductible contributions. These Articles had been previously circulated to some of the participants for review and comments. No comments were received. Mr. Arrom read the mission statement and explained that it would be better if we use the corporate name "The Children of Father Caminas" rather than "Los Niños del Padre Camiñas" in Spanish due to the difficulties posed by the fact that there is no letter ñ in English. The participants agreed, including Father Federico, who also later suggested that we add the word cultural to the mission statement. The Articles also provide an initial Board of Directors of five person who are listed on the Articles, all of which have accepted being on this initial Board. After discussion, motions were made and seconded to file the Articles as written except for the addition of the word cultural to the mission statement, the motion passed by majority voice vote.

One of the five initial Board members Orlando Cruz was not present but had agreed to sign the articles later.

Father Federico spoke about the work already in process to provide safe drinking water wells for children in Haiti to which some of the participants have already provided donations. He also spoke about another

project to purchase solar powered LEED lamps to provide light to schools and nursing facilities there. It was agreed to gather funds to provide about forty lamps costing about \$40 each after the organization is incorporated and IRS registered and qualified, at which time a bank account will be open to accept donations.

It was also discussed and agreed to create a website for the organization.

Adalberto Socas and Julio Cespedes reminded participants of the upcoming presentations for a book about the Choripans titled "Cuando Sali de Cuba". The next presentation to be held Friday May 12 at 7 pm at the Museo de la Diaspora Cubana.

Father Federico requested participants who would agree to be on his radio transmission next Wednesday after 2 pm and Orlando Arrom said that he could go.

The next **Regular Meeting** was scheduled for the first Saturday in June at the same location and the meeting was adjourned.

The agenda for the next **Board Meeting** will need to include the following:

Discussion and Approval of By Laws for the Corporation.

Appointment of Officers by the initial Board of Directors.

Corporate Resolution for Opening Bank Account and Authorized Signers.

Application for Exempt Organization Status with the IRS

Preparation of Operating and Endowment Budgets for 2023-2024