**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF**
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**
**RUST FOUNDATION**
**(a Delaware non-profit corporation)**

**Date**: September 12, 2023
**Time**: 21:00 UTC
**Place**: By online videoconference

**Directors present**:
Jane Losare-Lusby
Tyler Mandry
Seth Markle
Josh Stone
Ryan Levick
Mark Rousskov
Peixin Hou
Nell Shamrell-Harrington
Lars Bergstrom
Andy Wafaa
Eric Garcia

**Others present**:
Rebecca Rumbul (Executive Director)
Paul Lenz (Director of Finance & Funding)
Gracie Gregory (Director of Communications and Marketing)
Joel Marcey (Director of Technology)
Abi Broom (Operations Manager)

A quorum was present.

## 1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Bergstrom opened the meeting with opening remarks and a check for a quorum. He welcomed the quorum to the September 2023 Board meeting and handed the lead and logistics to Ms. Rumbul.

## 2. Approval of Minutes

A resolution was put forth to approve the minutes of the August 8th meeting, was briefly discussed, and approved by unanimous consent of the members of the Board present.

> *WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Foundation has reviewed the draft minutes of its regular meeting held on August 8th 2023, which were circulated to the Board (the "August 8th Minutes").*
>
> *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the August 8th Minutes are hereby approved.*

### 3.  Executive Director & Management Team update

**Management**

Ms. Rumbul gave an update:
-   We remain confident that continued funding for the Security Initiative will be secured.
-   The Foundation is partnering with Tim McNamara to produce a foundational Rust course as the initial content for a Foundation training program, and will be speaking to the many other training creators in the ecosystem.
-   Wide array of staff talks across the globe in Q3/Q4 (RustGlobal, RustConf, OSS Summit Europe, EuroRust, Google OS Austin) and further invitations still coming in.
-   Trademark Policy work has been stymied due to competing priorities.

**Technology/Infrastructure**

Mr. Marcey gave an update:
-   AWS costs are down from their peak of $65K to around $55K. Using more Fastly credits than originally allotted, but Fastly willing to give us an increase, still at no extra cost.
-   Malicious crate discovery that sent tokens and keys to a Telegram channel. The attack vector was typo squatting. The Foundation is looking at proposing some potential engineering efforts to help with malware detection - for example, having detection tooling that runs during crate publishing.
-   The first of the four threat models being drafted has been made publicly accessible.
-   Walter is working on a PKI RFC draft to help try to move the needle on crate signing as that is a key structural issue that needs to be solved to enable further security work around crates.
-   Painter is now over 100 stars on GitHub and has been updated with expanded coverage.
-   Discussions on how best to approach pre-compiled binaries.
-   Specification editor not appointed yet, work still in progress.
-   Technology subcommittee is being formed and will have its first meeting shortly after RustConf.
-   Google is looking at providing credits to the Foundation for use in our security initiative work and potentially for long-term backup and mirroring of crates.io, most probably starting in 2024.
-   Jan David Nose has been selected as team lead for the Infrastructure Team.
-   The DataDog proof of concept trial is nearly over, has gone well, and the Foundation is planning how to continue using it for the next ~9 months.

**Finance & Grants**

Mr. Lenz gave an update:
-   The Foundation continues to make an operating surplus, some of which, as agreed at the last meeting, will be put towards development of the Foundation's education and training effort.

- As a result of this surplus the Foundation has a large cash balance. Mr. Lenz presented a proposal to put some of these funds into 6-month interest-bearing bonds to maximize the return for the Foundation. The Board approved this proposal.
- The staff team is writing a full review of the grants program's first year of operations, and has some thoughts on how the program might evolve in future years based on the learnings from that. This will be shared with the board for the next meeting.

## Communications & Events

Ms. Gregory gave an update:
- Recent publications included a Q2 Recap, announcement of the new Fellows, and several Silver Member announcements. The process for new member announcements has gotten very smooth and there is now a great rhythm and template for these spotlight posts. The Foundation intends to refocus marketing efforts over the next few months to include further grantee spotlight posts.
- Ms. Gregory demonstrated progress to date on the Foundation's website redesign, including a prototype of the homepage.
- She encouraged the board to contribute news, items of interest etc to share with Foundation members in future monthly Member Update emails.
- RUST GLOBAL event in Bellevue, WA on September 6 was a success!
    - Full audience with standing room only
    - Smooth flow of events
    - Good initial feedback from speakers, audience members, and attendees
    - Interview with journalist Byron Aycohedo about the Rust Foundation's work in the open source security space is expected to result in a piece for a general audience with accompanying video content.
- Foundation team at RUSTCONF this week. Jan David Nose and Sage Griffin to speak.

Mr. Wafaa inquired about progress on recruiting new members to the Foundation. The team will be refocusing on this after RustConf and following up on the many initial contacts that have been made over the past few months.

## 4. Project Directors update

Ms. Lusby gave an update:
- 1.72 Rust release, with bug fix coming out in two days.
- The biggest piece of news was the election of new Project Directors. Ms. Lusby, Mr. Mandry and Mr. Stone's terms were ending, and nominations were currently being collected for their replacements. It was expected that new Project Directors would be elected in time for the next board meeting.

Mr. Bergstrom and others offered their time to any nominated candidates who would be interested to discuss the role of a Project Director in more detail.

Mr. Markle noted that he had found the session on antitrust, compliance and board responsibilities that happened to take place during his first meeting as a board member really

useful, and suggested that this training should be provided to new directors (and furthermore, given as an annual refresher to the full board. There was general consensus on this point.) It was noted that substantial parts of this material was now included in the Foundation's formal "welcome packet" for new board members.

Ms. Rumbul led a vote of thanks to Ms. Lusby, Mr. Mandry and Mr. Stone for their great work as part of the board.

## 5.  Subcommittee updates

- DEI committee: Met in August and discussed gaining insight into the demographics of the existing Rust community via the State of Rust survey.
- Technology committee: Newly formed; first meeting to occur sometime after RustConf.

## 6.  Discussion of White House RfI on OSS

The Office of the National Cyber Director had issued a Request for Information on Open-Source Software Security: Areas of Long-Term Focus and Prioritization. The federal government is interested in how it can contribute to driving down the most important systemic risks in open-source software, and fostering the long-term sustainability of open-source communities. The response, due 9 October, provides an opportunity for the Foundation to contribute subject matter expertise, and in the longer term, may lead to new sources of funding for relevant work.

Ms. Rumbul led a discussion on what should be included in the Foundation's response to the RfI. Ideas included:

- Ensuring that the government understands the impact of regulation of open source should not fall on individual volunteers, but rather on the end users who produce products for commercial gain.
- Ensuring that the government understands that open source is a global endeavor and attempting to regulate contributions by jurisdiction is unworkable.
- The motivation of open source maintainers, and how they can be incentivized to produce secure code by default.
- Explore the ways in which the Foundation can contribute positively to the funding of open source maintainers.
- Best practice in, and development of, open source governance.
- Funding to explore Rust LTS (Long-Term Support) releases.
- "Big picture" thinking, large-scale and multi-year investments into the future of Rust.
- Positioning the Rust Foundation as the best placed entity to increase adoption of Rust as a memory-safe language. Important to differentiate the Rust Foundation's offer and foundational position as the funder of the Rust ecosystem infrastructure from all the other foundations and organizations who will also be responding to this RfI.
- Potentially, broader policy changes for how the government can support open source – for example, tax incentives, or providing a CDN for open source use.

The final submission would be a public document and Ms. Rumbul noted that this would be drawn to Project members' attention, particularly as the Foundation started to develop more specific proposals and requests for funding to carry out particular projects.

## 7. AOB

The Foundation has a crisis PR firm on retainer and this raised the question of reactive vs. proactive communication strategies. There was a discussion on the benefits and drawbacks of working with external PR support.

## 8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 22:56 UTC.