

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

**Date:** July 12, 2022

**Time:** 21:00 UTC

**Place:** By online videoconference

**Apologies:**

Bobby Holley

**Directors present:**

Jane Lusby

Lars Bergstrom

Nell Shamrell-Harrington

Peixin Hou

Shane Miller

Tyler Mandry

Eric Garcia

Josh Stone

Mark Rousskov

Ryan Levick

Andy Wafaa

Daniel Nazer

**Others present:**

Rebecca Rumbul (Executive Director)

Paul Lenz (Director of Finance & Funding)

Abi Broom (Operations Manager)

A quorum was present.

**1. Opening Remarks**

Ms. Miller opened the meeting with opening remarks and a check for a quorum. Ms. Miller welcomed the quorum to the July 2022 Board meeting, including Daniel Nazer as Bobby Holley's delegate on behalf of Mozilla, and handed the lead and logistics to Ms. Rumbul.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A resolution was put forth to approve the minutes of the June 14th 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 June 14th 2022, which were circulated to the Board (the “June 14th Minutes”).*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the June 14th Minutes are hereby approved.*

### **3. Project Directors update**

Mr. Levick gave an update. Since the last meeting:

- There had been new releases of Rust (1.62) and rustup (1.25.1).
- The Rust Language Server was officially deprecated in favor of rust-analyzer.
- Two people had stepped down from the core team. Mr. Levick explained that whilst they will be missed, there were enough team members to continue the work.
- The RustConf PostConf UnConf had been announced for the day after RustConf.
- A [2021 Annual Survey Report](#) had been published, releasing the survey data.
- This Week In Rust’s editors had come to the decision to include a link to the week’s ‘who’s hiring’ thread on Reddit instead of featuring individual jobs in the newsletter, due to the difficulty of moderating job postings.

There was some discussion about how this same difficulty might affect the Foundation if it chose to run a jobs board. Ms. Lusby offered the view that a ‘candidates’ board could be a different way to approach the issue.

### **4. Executive Director update**

Ms. Rumbul gave an overview of activity since the last board meeting.

#### ***Management***

Final contracts with Virtual Inc had now concluded.

The Foundation was moving towards the appointment of candidates to Infrastructure Engineer and Director of Communications & Marketing roles.

Three new Platinum members were in the advanced stages of agreeing membership.

The trademark policy review begun in 2021 would be picked up and moved forward during Q3.

Ms. Rumbul’s attendance at Linux OSS Summit (US) had generated a number of new contacts, potential projects and potential funding.

#### ***Finance***

Mr. Lenz gave an update. Overall, on a constant spend/membership basis the Foundation is on a strong financial footing out to the end of 2023. This provides the opportunity to increase spending, as discussed in the last Board meeting - the Executive will share options at a future Board meeting.

## ***Communications & Events***

Ms. Rumbul said that the response to the Community Grants Program awards had been overwhelmingly positive. She encouraged the Board to suggest contributors for the RF ‘guest blog’ series: the first had been published already, and it was hoped that some CGP grantees would eventually write pieces, but in the meantime, more guest posts from people with interesting ideas to share would be welcomed.

In collaboration with the marketing consultant, a strategic comms/PR plan had been developed, and also social media sharing guidelines in response to some (expected) community backlash concerning the sharing of a member’s content. Mr. Mandry asked if there would be a public response to that incident. Ms. Rumbul advised that she would be converting the Q2 performance report (part of which addresses this) into a blog post, and which would include a clearer explanation of the guidelines and regulations regarding treating members equally that the Rust Foundation has to abide by.

The Foundation would be running a welcome reception at RustConf, sponsoring EuroRust, and speaking at the Open Source Summit Europe in Dublin in September.

## ***Community Grants Program***

Mr. Lenz reported that the majority of award administration was now complete, with grants paid out. Discord channels had been set up for the grantees to interact with each other and there was already a pleasing amount of activity. The staff were reviewing lessons learned, and planning how to streamline and improve the CGP for the next round of grants in October. Funding to continue the program in 2023 was being sought and a pitch deck would be shared with board members in the near future.

Ms. Miller asked about metrics for the success of the program. Mr. Lenz said that these were still being developed and would be brought to the next meeting. Some would likely be proxy measures, such as looking at grantees’ GitHub activity before/after the grant. It was important to balance getting meaningful data with not overly burdening the grantees with reporting requirements.

Ms. Miller stated that it would be good to have metrics examining “what is the lift?” of the grantees overall, across the project/landscape. Mr. Levick concurred that the focus should be on the efficacy of the program as a whole, not on anything that felt like a judgment on individuals within the program. He also felt it would be important to seek qualitative feedback from Project team members on their perception of the program.

Mr. Rousskov thought it would be useful to analyze whether “10 x” of CGP grants would deliver “10 x” impact. He suggested there could be a saturation point at which the Foundation would need to look for other uses for the funding. Mr. Lenz stated that with ten times the funding, the program would have to be redesigned to do things very differently, and thinking through these scenarios would be a part of developing the 2023 pitch.

Mr. Lenz clarified that 2023 funding would be sought from non-member organizations as well as members, which was one reason the Foundation would be attending, speaking at and sponsoring more events. Ms. Miller encouraged board members to include a CTA to the pitch deck in their own outreach.

### ***New Project: Securing Rust***

The Rust Foundation is eligible for funding on security work in the Rust ecosystem, and is proposing a collaborative project with corporate partners, where RF would hire a security engineer directly and also benefit from the work of secondees from partner organizations. Ms. Rumbul stated that this was an exceptional opportunity to establish the Foundation as a body that takes security and its stewarding role seriously. Security is very high on the agenda in US and European policy and political circles currently, and Rust is of significant interest to federal and governmental agencies in securing aspects of the software supply chain.

The Board agreed with this assessment but also identified some challenges around how this work might interact with / impact on the Rust Project. It would be important to engage the relevant people as early as possible in the process, and take their existing priorities, work and capacities into account, so that they felt supported, not suddenly pressured to fix a lot more security issues. Ms. Rumbul clarified that the security project staff would not only be threat modeling and identifying problems. They would also bring some capacity for implementation of the solutions. She suggested, as a first step, an open call for contributors, themed around security, to start the process of gathering input.

There was a question about the reporting structure for this project, and Ms. Rumbul responded that it would be a Foundation-directed project, with the secondees reporting to the Foundation and integrated as part of the Foundation staff team.

## **5. Q2 Performance Review & Q3 Overview**

Ms. Rumbul presented the Q2 performance report. All planned objectives for the quarter had been achieved, some ahead of schedule (e.g. earlier in the year, it had been thought that CGP grants might not be made until Q3), and additional activities undertaken. She called out as highlights:

- 3 x Platinum memberships in processing stage
- 3 x New Silver Members
- Development of new Securing Rust Project & associated funding / in-kind contributions
- New Infrastructure Engineer
- Delivery of CGP ahead of schedule
- Increased media presence

Q3 activities would include:

- Work towards Securing Rust Project go live date
- Induction and onboarding - potential new members & Infra Engineer
- Develop & action CGP fundraising pitch
- RustConf & OSS Summit Europe

- 1 x AMA (Early Sept)
- Training planning for Fellows
- Planning / initial development of Rust jobs board

She asked the board for input on a topic for the AMA. Ms. Miller suggested that it could be an open session for people to ask questions of the Project Directors.

Ms. Lusby asked about the timeline for developing the Foundation's education and training offer. Ms. Rumbul agreed this was an important and priority project. It was not included in the plans for Q3 because it would be built into the remit of the new comms & marketing director, who would be starting in Q4. This would ensure the project got the dedicated attention needed to make it a success.

With three new Platinum members incoming, Ms. Miller asked about the limitation in the bylaws of a maximum of 15 Directors on the Board. Ms. Rumbul responded that she was reviewing the bylaws more generally with counsel, and was aiming to bring a new draft to the September board meeting. However, the board membership ceiling could potentially be changed independently of, and sooner than, other amendments.

Mr. Nazer requested a high level summary of the trademark policy review that had been mentioned earlier as a Q3 action. Ms. Rumbul explained that a redraft was started in early-mid 2021, but was dropped, and she wanted to pick that up and finish it. She had already spoken to Mozilla as the original holders of the trademark, and also intended to get input from the Rust community about how they might want to use the trademark, and codify that into the new policy.

## **6. Open Forum**

There was a further discussion of the demand for educational resources, and the clear role for the Foundation in helping to meet this.

There was a show of hands for RustConf attendance and Ms. Rumbul encouraged people to register for the Foundation's reception event.

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 22:57 UTC.