

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

Date: April 9, 2024

Time: 21:00 UTC

Place: By online videoconference

Directors present:

Lars Bergstrom

Jakob Degen

Vladan Djeric (representing Meta – alternate for Eric Garcia)

Peixin Hou

Ryan Levick

Scott McMurray

Santiago Pastorino

Alexandru Radovici

Mark Rousskov

Nell Shamrell-Harrington

Matt Wilson (representing AWS – alternate for Seth Markle)

Apologies:

Eric Garcia

Seth Markle

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 (Director of Operations)

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 April 2024 Board meeting and handed the lead and logistics to Ms. Rumbul.

2. Approval of Minutes

Due to the cancellation of the March meeting, minutes of the previous meeting, February 13th, had previously been circulated and approved via email.

3. Executive Team Update

Management

Ms. Rumbul gave the update. The Foundation was working with other foundations (Eclipse, Apache, Python) on EU CRA Standards. CISA Summit participation was productive and had identified key areas for improvement. Mr. Marcey attended Fastly Xcelerate in San Francisco and took part in several discussions and interviews. Upcoming events included OSS Summit NA (multiple staff speaking) and a closed Code-Hosting Foundations Roundtable.

Two listening sessions around training and certification, one with Foundation members and one with Rust community members, had been completed. Useful feedback was received and the sessions were generally positive.

A new trademark policy draft had just been shared as a starting point for discussion with Project leadership, and would be iterated further in the coming weeks.

Technology/Infrastructure

Mr. Marcey gave the update. Hiring was in progress for two new roles on the engineering team – an infrastructure engineer, and a lead for the C++/Rust Interoperability Initiative. Progress on the Rust specification was not as fast as hoped, and there was the possibility the Foundation would also hire a contractor to help work on moving it forward.

An RFC was in progress for a PKI model for Rust, with subsequent RFCs on crate and release signing being drafted. “Sudo mode” had been added for admins logged into crates.io: actions that require admin privileges will be disabled by default unless the admin explicitly turns on admin actions from the user menu, at which point they will be given privileges for six hours or until they disable admin actions again from the user menu. CDN log-based crates download counting was now [running in production](#) and should help with scaling issues. Crates.io achieved 30 billion downloads in the year to the end of March 2024 - as much as the total number of downloads from inception to the end of March 2023.

Finance & Grants

Mr. Lenz noted that the Foundation was currently operating at a surplus compared to budget because 3 planned hires were not yet in post, and he intended to carry out a re-budgeting process once their starting dates and salary levels were confirmed. Staff were managing the Foundation’s cash reserves by implementing a system of rolling, short-term, deposits to maximize investment returns. Content for 2023’s Form 990 had been collated and provided to the Foundation’s CPA, with the intent that the return would be finalized for submission in May 2024.

On the grants program, there were ongoing discussions with Project leadership concerning the shape and size of the 2024 Fellows program, with a proposal coming together. Applications should be open in May with Fellowships to start in July.

Communications

Ms. Gregory ran through a summary of recent communications output, and shared that the Foundation's new Marketing Program Manager was due to start work on April 22.

The Foundation had implemented a new process for evaluating requests for event sponsorship, due to the increase in the number of Rust events being run. The process would enable requests to be assessed fairly, in relation to each other and in relation to the Foundation's key considerations around distributing its financial support. Smaller 'meetup' events would be funneled towards the event support grants program, whilst larger events would be prioritized on the basis of geographic region, community focus, and whether they had commercial backing or high levels of sponsorship from elsewhere.

RustConf's new website, CFP and ticket registration were all live, with sponsorship deals starting to be signed. Ms. Gregory asked any board members whose organizations were interested in becoming a sponsor to reach out to her. Likewise, if there were recommendations for potential keynote speakers, Foundation staff and the program committee would be interested to receive those.

4. Q1 / Q2 Goals

Ms. Rumbul reviewed the goals set for Q1, noting that all had been achieved, and outlined the following goals for Q2 of 2024:

- Onboarding for 3 x new recruits
- Open 2024 Fellowship applications
- New Foundation website go-live
- Progress TM policy to all-project engagement
- Develop content for first RF Rust online course
- Organize safety critical industry forum
- Attendance / Speeches at OSS Summit North America, RSA San Francisco, RustNL, SOSS EU Brussels

5. Project Director Update

Mr. Pastorino provided the update:

- [1.77](#) release, which includes c-string literals, etc, followed by 1.77.1 and 1.77.2 point releases, the latter including a [security update](#) around command escaping on Windows.
- A productive Rust Leads Summit had been held around the Rust Nation event in London, where topics around best ways to use Project budget from the Foundation and other items were discussed.

6. Sub-Committee Updates

No subcommittees had met since the last meeting.

7. Treasurer Vacancy

Mr. McMurray had volunteered for the vacant position of Treasurer, and the Board was happy to confirm this nomination.

8. Associate Member Applications

The board considered two applications for Associate Membership, both of which were accepted: RustNL, and Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR).

Mr. Hou asked for an update on conversations with potential Platinum members. Ms Rumbul responded that these were currently stalled due to either budgetary or strategic restrictions at those companies.

9. Request for Trademark License

Ms. Rumbul asked the board for their views on how the Foundation should set its fees for trademark usage.

The board was in agreement that the fee should cover the Foundation's legal and administrative costs in relation to granting a trademark license, and that it should not be tied to Foundation membership in any way. Some board members felt that the Foundation should strive to maximize the value of its brand assets and derive financial benefit from the trademark – if companies are making revenue from it, some of that revenue should come back to the Rust community. Others argued that the perception that the Rust trademarks are only available to those who can afford a high fee is one to avoid.

Mr Bergstrom proposed a motion for a minimum trademark fee of \$10K/year. Ms. Shamrell-Harrington seconded. There were no objections and the motion passed.

10. LTS Discussion

Ms. Rumbul asked the board for their perspectives on LTS provision in Rust, and whether this was something that the Foundation ought to be doing or contributing to in any way.

There was general agreement that whilst lots of people seem to feel there is a gap in the market as it relates to LTS provision, there is as yet no clear idea on what is meant by "LTS", and this was something that the Foundation could help to define through conducting a requirements analysis. Ms. Rumbul noted that the staff would circle back on this for the June meeting.

11. EU / Global Entity Discussion

Ms. Rumbul informed the board that the lack of an officially registered Rust Foundation entity within the EU might lock Rust out of substantial EU funding and partnership opportunities in the future, and that several companies had suggested that they would prefer to invest in membership via an EU entity rather than a solely US registered entity. She felt it would be prudent to explore the possibility of creating linked entities in other jurisdictions.

The board had no concerns about this course of action and authorized the staff to do so.

12. AOB

Ms. Rumbul noted that Foundation staff were considering the implications of the XZ vulnerability for Rust, and would put forward some options.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 23:00 UTC.