OpenSats Board Meeting Minutes (2026Q3)

DATE: 21 September 2026 (Q3)

TIME: 19:00 — 21:30 UTC

ATTENDING	ABSENT
Matt Odell, Elaine Ou, Janine, Gigi, Ben Price, Dread, Tim, James O'Beirne (partial)	

- **19:00** — Casual discussion while people join and Gigi gets set up. Waiting for James.
- **19:05** — Board meeting begins; James is still absent. Gigi leads the intro and overview, with the allocation and treasury figures, as presented publicly at /map and /transparency. We currently have 97 open grants.
- **19:08** — James joins the board meeting.
- **19:09** — Summary of the ColdCard, BTCPay Server and LND vulnerability postmortems, how they impacted us, and what we need to address to prevent exposure and emergencies in the future. This was the most stressful time since OpenSats' creation. However, no funds were lost and no grant payouts had to be delayed.
- **19:17** — Summary of the opening of our new red team fund, focused on token / compute reimbursement.
- **19:20** — Summary of our latest impact reports, project pages; updates to the website and grant application forms, including bot protection. Grant periods can be as short as 3 months, and preferably no longer than 1 year unless LTS. We will request that grantees separate any AI token & compute/hardware costs in their budget calculation.
- **19:23** — Summary of our latest developer spotlights. The content team is still getting used to the interview format. A quarterly newsletter is coming soon, focused on governance and avoiding single-points-of-failure (SPoFs).

- **19:26** — Ben and Gigi remind the board that inactivity is actively harmful to the organisation's ability to function, and that anyone who cannot maintain their commitment should step down. It is noted that board activity has improved over the last quarter, and that we do not yet have confirmed replacements.
- **19:30** — James offers to voluntarily resign as a board member; official resignation pending written notification as per our protocol.
- **20:00** — Board vote to dismiss least-active (all time) board members. **Vote result fails super-majority required.** No further voluntary resignations.
- **20:01** — Discussion on updates to the OpenSats legal structure and bylaws.
- **20:10** — Discussion on how AI-assisted development changes our grant expectations. What outcomes and proof-of-work should we require? Should we be funding long-term projects that could be done much faster using AI?
    - It is suggested that we close down project-based applications for 6 months while we re-evaluate, and only reimburse tokens. No decision is made in this regard; upcoming applications period remains the same.
    - It is suggested that we lean even more heavily on the applicant's expertise and history / proof-of-work, to evaluate the quality of what can be produced, regardless of whether AI is used in the process.
    - Should we be funding outcomes rather than time-based stuff? It is suggested that we both require shorter time increments for output and raise expectations for delivery, such as conducting a one-month trial period which must be passed before the grant is extended.
    - It is suggested that we put out a public request for feedback on the topic.
- **20:30** — James asks for clarification about the resignation procedure, and recommends Jon Atack as a replacement for himself, before leaving the meeting.
- **20:37** — Tim opens a discussion on "what do we stand for/against?" particularly when it comes to holding each other accountable for conduct that undermines our FOSS mission.
- **20:50** — Tim reflects on the red team funding thus far. It is suggested that we offer Loupe access to our grantees.

- **21:00** — We discuss whether we should refrain from making public announcements about certain grants when there is a substantial security/privacy risk for the grantee. There is general consensus (no detraction or veto) that we should make such exceptions, evaluated on a case-by-case basis, requiring majority board approval, when the grantee requests it.
- **21:05** — We discuss any necessary improvements to our treasury management and structure, focused on best-practices for geographic diversity, vendor diversity, key management and rotation, and tiered storage.
- **21:12** — Dread leaves the board meeting.
- **21:18** — We discuss the status of the Nostr fund. Since we have now allocated all funds that we had agreed to commit to Nostr projects, we are no longer obligated to continue doing so. The Nostr subcommittee members can be shifted to reviewing general fund grants.
- **21:23** — We discuss how to respond to false / unsubstantiated claims via social media about OpenSats. It is generally agreed that organisational accounts should only engage via official statements and reports, if at all.
- **21:28** — We briefly discuss an incident where multiple applications were submitted on others' behalf. The applications were genuine but need to be submitted individually. The matter has already been resolved.
- **21:30** — Final thoughts.
- **21:31** — Board meeting concludes.

Board meeting minutes prepared by: Janine (OpenSats Secretary).

Additional document(s) relevant to / referenced in the meeting, prepared by Gigi, are attached.