Sprint Review

Agile is a very important part of project planning and management. Saying that, I acknowledge that not every project benefits from agile but for the most part they do. Agile creates an environment that encourages flexibility and efficiency. It does this by using unconventional methods to boost productivity. There are various roles within an agile scrum team. Those roles are the product owner, scrum master, developer, and tester. Each of these roles were invaluable to our efforts in creating the best product we could produce.

The product owner was crucial in communicating with the customer, consumer, and outside influences. Taking the information provided, the owner communicated this information to the project team who then used it to improve the project. An example of the product owner gathering information is the user stories we used to make changes and improve upon the product. These user stories were the foundation of the improvements made to our website to create a complete product for the consumer. Without these we would not be able to stand out and be unique for our customers. This is only one example of the importance of each of the roles.

Another example is the scrum master using the same communication skills to coordinate with the team. The scrum master set up and facilitated the daily scrum meetings that set the tone for each day. In doing this, the team was able to stay on task and attack any issues quickly and effectively. Without the scrum master this would not have been possible and save time and cost for the product and team to meet budget. Within the scrum meetings, you had the developers and testers who worked together closely.

The developers did a great job in implementing the various improvements from the user stories. These things added the special properties we needed to bring in more traffic and create more sales. The developers played a crucial role in the team as they provided the heart of the product. This is something that is absolutely necessary to allow the project to survive. Without our developers doing what they do, there would be no team for everybody to be a part of. One role our developers worked closely with is the testers.

Another valuable member of the team is the testers. For the developers to create a quality product the testers are needed. They create the test cases for the new improvements. They also run the test on the improvements to ensure the quality is up to criteria set out. This is a vital part of the product team because it is the quality assurance needed to provide the best product to our customers. Without our testers, we would be introducing bugs and other features that would push our customers away instead of bringing them in. This was done by taking user stories and developing them into the features that make our product great.

The user stories were implemented with the help of scrum. Scrum allowed us to effectively implement creating a top destinations list for the customers to see. This was able to be a seamless process due to the agile process. Creating profile settings and making suggestions based off previous trips were able to be added because of the flexibility of the agile process. The implementation was made a lot easier because were able to work on these things simultaneously, rather than one thing at a time. This made the overall cost of the project cheaper.

This leads me into the fact that agile helped the overall completion by creating a more effective and efficient process. This is done by allowing the team to be flexible, the daily team meetings and the emphasis on communication. The flexibility allowed separate teams to work at the same time of different things to reduce the time and cost of the project. The daily meetings allowed the team to be reminded of the upcoming goals and deadlines to focus and get things done on time. The meetings also, allowed for any issues to be addressed sooner to be resolved quicker and save more time and money. The emphasis on communication helped eliminate redundant time. Time wasted is a cost that can never be gained back. The communication was vital in eliminating wasted time and reducing the cost of the project.

Communication has been mentioned throughout this document as being important, but we have not covered how we achieved effective communication in depth. The main way we used communication was through the daily scrum meetings. These were important to our project because they created an open source where every member of the team had a space to share their opinion. This space was also where updates, solutions, and issues were shared so everybody knew what was going on. Another way communication was vital was the product owner with the customers and client. This allowed a stream of information to go from the customers to the project team to be effectively used to improve our product.

We were able to complete this feat by using various tools and scrum principles. We have already mentioned some of these already. The daily scrum meeting is a tool that helped us tremendously by creating the environment for communication. Emphasizing communication is the main principle we used to improve our efficiency and integrate agile into our project. This led us to creating an effective project.

The scrum approach allowed us to be flexible with the project and attend to various tasks at the same time, therefore moving the project timeline up compared to the waterfall method. The waterfall method would have extended the time of the project and therefore creating more cost. The agile method was also effective in creating multiple communication lines. These communication lines were essential in the efficiency of our project. Without the product manager and scrum master, who were the biggest communicators, our project would have been dead in the water. One of the issues we had with agile at first, was getting used to the open communication. This was something that we had to work through as people got more and more comfortable with this type of environment and methodology. The scrum approach was the best way to tackle this project because of the different moving pieces. The flexibility allowed us to develop different parts of the program at the same time. As mentioned, the provided multiple benefits for us, where a waterfall method would not. Overall, adapting the agile methodology was the best thing we could have done.