* What requests would you make of the Product Owner and/or tester?

For the product owner I would ask that they ask clarifying follow-up questions to the stakeholders. In the example of this change to a spa/detox focused vacation results, I would ask that they stakeholder clarify if the future of the site is going to focus on these specific vacations. Instead of implementing a website that just focuses on these specific vacations, I would suggest we build a system that allows us to categorize all the vacations, then as needed we could change what the “focus” of the website is based on trends.

Then with this approach in mind, for the tester I would have the primary test focus on the meta-tags of the vacations themselves. We can ensure that the testers are verifying the categorisation of the vacations returned to the user’s search.

* How do you ensure you will get the response you need to move forward?

I believe that approaching the product owner or the stakeholders with a constructive response and plan will yield the most accurate response. If we just go back with questions making sure they’re positive about the new direction the stakeholder will double down on the sudden pivot and have the dev team focus on this one specific niche. While the goal of the dev team is to provide the requested functionality, it’s also important to build in flexibility and allow to future pivots down the development lifecycle.

* How does the agile methodology allow you to be more flexible in your approach to development?

Using the agile methodology allows us to quickly change the scope of the project, what functionality is the current focus, and so on. When the stakeholders and thus the product owners bring a sudden shift in the focus of the project to the development team, using agile allows the team to make pivots without having to start completely from scratch.