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CS-250: Journal - Scrum Master

Day One

Today marks the beginning of a new project. I've met with the team to facilitate the creation of the team charter. Christy, the Product Owner, gave us an overview of the client's needsong with an estimated project cope and what a successful project outcome would look like. As a team, we were able to establish rules of behavior and communication guidelines - and that I was there to support and coach them, but reminded them that I was not there to manage them. We also established a definition of "done", so that there is no confusion about what we mean when someone indicates that a feature is "done".

I briefly outlined the scrum process and the various official, and unofficial, ceremonies that will take place including Sprint Planning, Dail Scrums, Story Time, Sprint Review, and Sprint Retrospectives. After some discussion, taking into account the scope and complexity of the project, the team has agreed that the length of each sprint should be one week, and that the Daily Scrum should be kept to fifteen minutes each morning at 9:00 am. They also plan on following the following schedule each week:

- Sprint Planning, weekly on Monday morning at 9:00 am in the absence of a need for a Daily Scrum.
- Story Time, weekly on Wednesday afternoon to work with the Product Owner on refining the Product Backlog in preparation for future sprints.
- Sprint Review, weekly Friday early afternoon to review accomplishments and missed opportunities with all project stakeholders.

- Sprint Retrospective, weekly following the Sprint Review to discuss something that did not go well, and something that went well during the current sprint and how the team can improve for future sprints.

Day Two - Five

Had several meeting and discussions with the Nicky and Brian over the remaining days of the week to make sure they had the tools they needed and understood the project management tools we'd be utilizing, the kanban board for example. I believe the team is ready to begin work once the Product Backlog is ready to go.

I worked with the Christy to make sure that the Product Backlog would be ready on Monday for the first Sprint Planning ceremony. Upon her request, I facilitated a Story Time to allow the full team to better understand the user stories, why they were prioritized the way that they were, and a general sense of how she was measuring business value of each story. With the team's assistance, Christy was able to refine the Product Backlog sufficiently for our upcoming Monday Sprint Planning ceremony and the team better understands the overarching goals of this project.

Monday

We've completed our first Sprint Planning ceremony. It went well, and the development team was able to create an appropriate sprint backlog of user stories. Brian and Nick have decided to Pair Programm using a Test Driven Development approach that is well suited for their individual skill sets, while also allowing them to gain experience outside of their own expertise. The

Product Owner seems pleased with the size of the sprint backlog, and the team is confident in their abilities to stay on schedule.

Tuesday

The team got a little off track during their first Daily Scrum - wading into details that should be discussed as sidebars later in the day. They were able to get back on track with a gentle reminder of the purpose of the scrum and the established time box. During his stand up, Brian indicated that the client had approached him asking what she could do to assist in the process, and that he wasn't sure how to handle this request. I reassured the team that I would assist in removing any roadblocks that could distract them from their work, and that I would discuss with both the client and Christy to make sure that communication during the sprint occurs through Christy or myself.

The conversation with the client went well. She was not trying to disrupt our work, and is now aware of the Scrum process and how distractions may interfere with successful completion of the sprint. She has agreed to either communicate with Christy or myself, or wait until the Sprint Review to speak with the developers.

Wednesday

The Daily Scrum went much smoother today, everyone was more focused. The team is coallescing well, and seem to be on target to complete all items in the Sprint Backlog. In fact, they have moved a few items from "In Process" to "Complete" for review by the team and

ultimately the Product Owner for acceptance. The goal is to have the Product Owner review all completed features before the Sprint Review.

We also had Story Time today, and tackled a couple of user stories that were out of scope for a sprint. Christy was impressed with the ideas that the team had, and was able to refine them into sprint ready user stories, prioritizing those with the most value. We should be in good shape for the next Sprint Planning ceremony.

Thursday

Unfortunately, the team hit a snag today. The Product Manager rejected one of the user stories that the team had designated as Done. Because other user stories currently being worked on, and the fact that the remaining Sprint Backlog items were not tightly dependent on the rejected story, the Product Owner decided to return the story to the Product Backlog for inclusion in a future sprint.

Friday

The Sprint Review went great. Before the Sprint Review, Christy was able to review all completed Sprint Backlog items for acceptance and determined that they all met their established acceptance criteria. The meeting with the project stakeholders went well. They were pleased with the progress that was made, and are excited to see what will be accomplished this week. The team was able to answer their questions and respond to suggestions made by the stakeholders, with Christy and myself stepping in where appropriate when specific product features requests were being discussed to keep the meeting focused.

Afterwards, we met for the Sprint Retrospective and discussed what happened with the failed feature and what could be done in the future to mitigate the risk of something similar occurring. We then went on to focus on what went well, discussing the experience Nicky and Brian had with Paired Programming and Test Driven Development - and how it could be better leveraged to improve future sprints.

I look forward to the remaining weeks on this project, and expect a successful completion - and am excited to already see the team building rapport and holding each other accountable.