OPPI20 Goes Virtual and Registration is Open

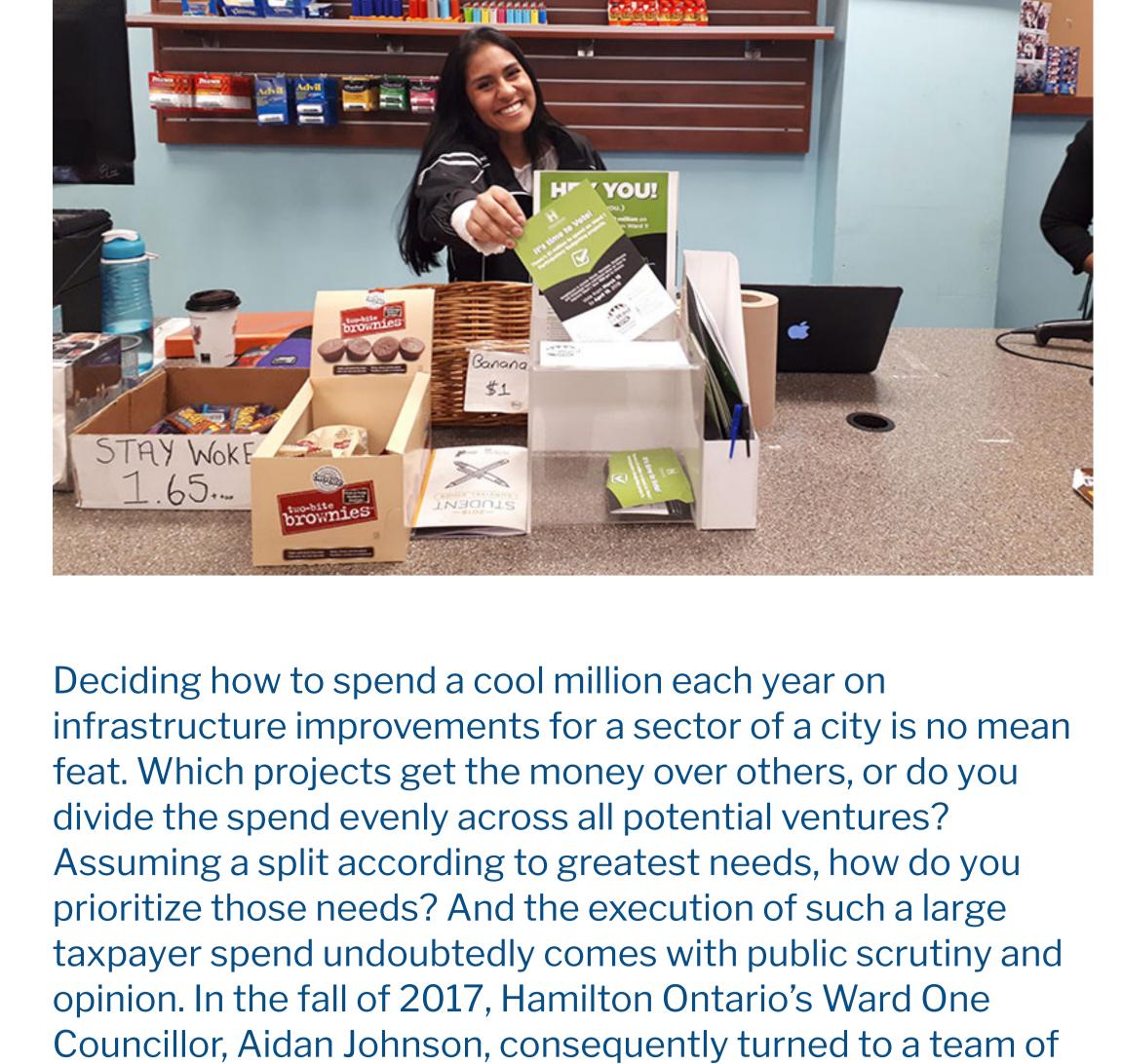
OPPI

Jobs

May 2019

AROUND THEM: HOW A CAREFULLY LAYERED PARTICIPATORY PLANNING PROCESS GAVE HAMILTON'S WARD ONE RESIDENTS A VOICE IN MUNICIPAL SPENDING.

CITIZENS SHAPING THE SPACES



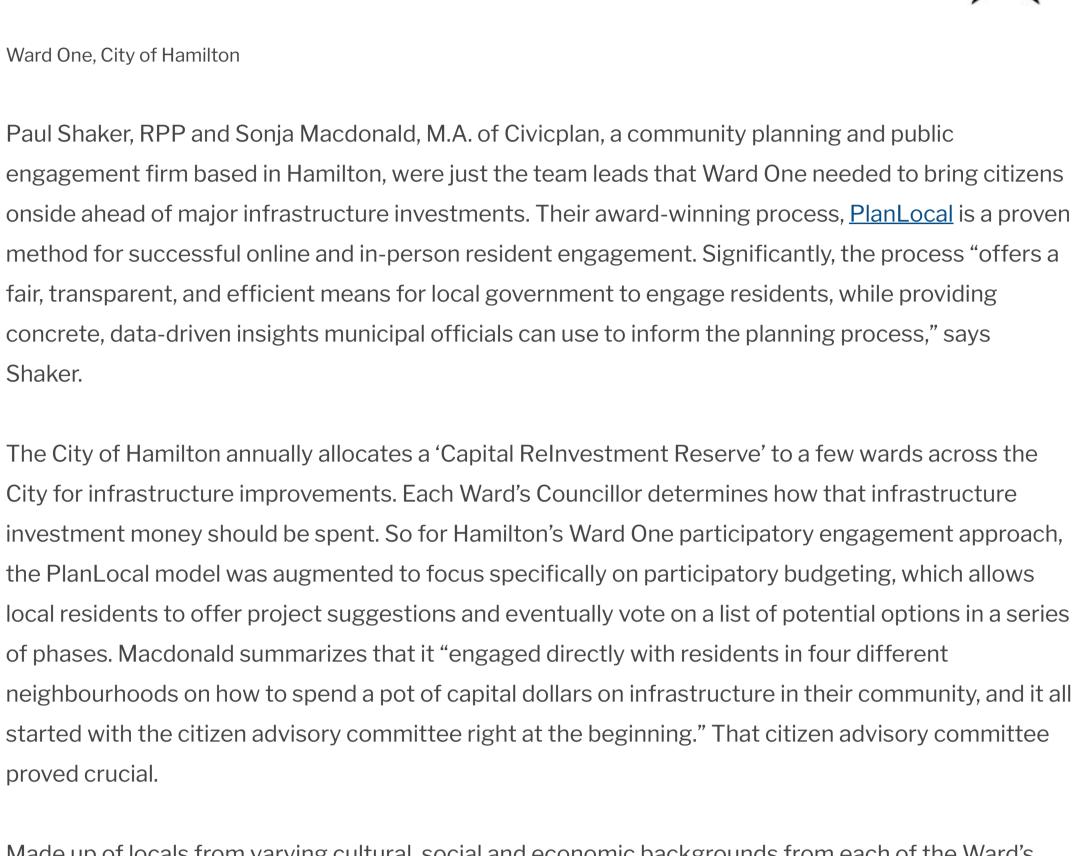
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planning and public participation experts at Civicplan to

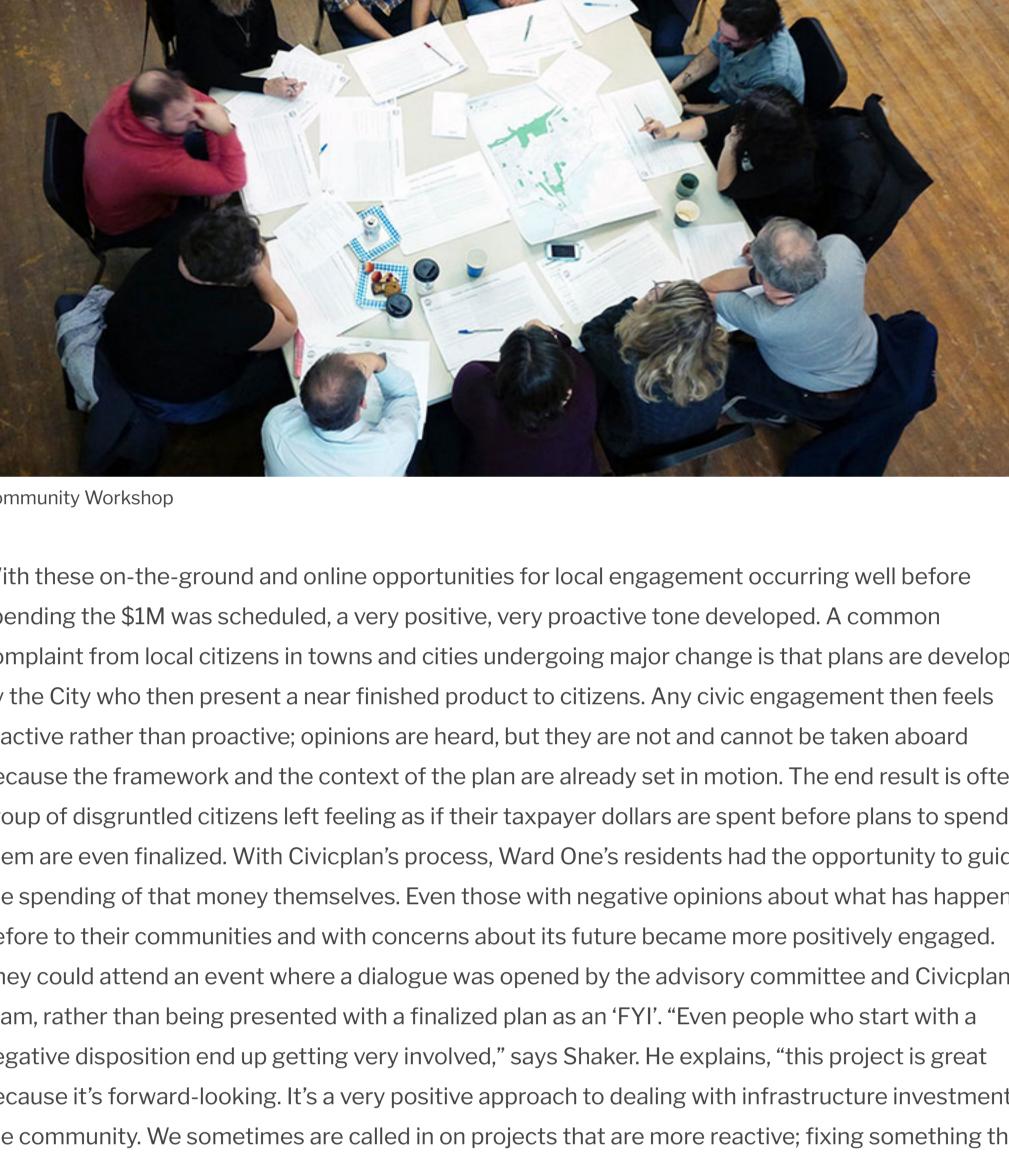
2019 budget rollout would truly meet the needs and

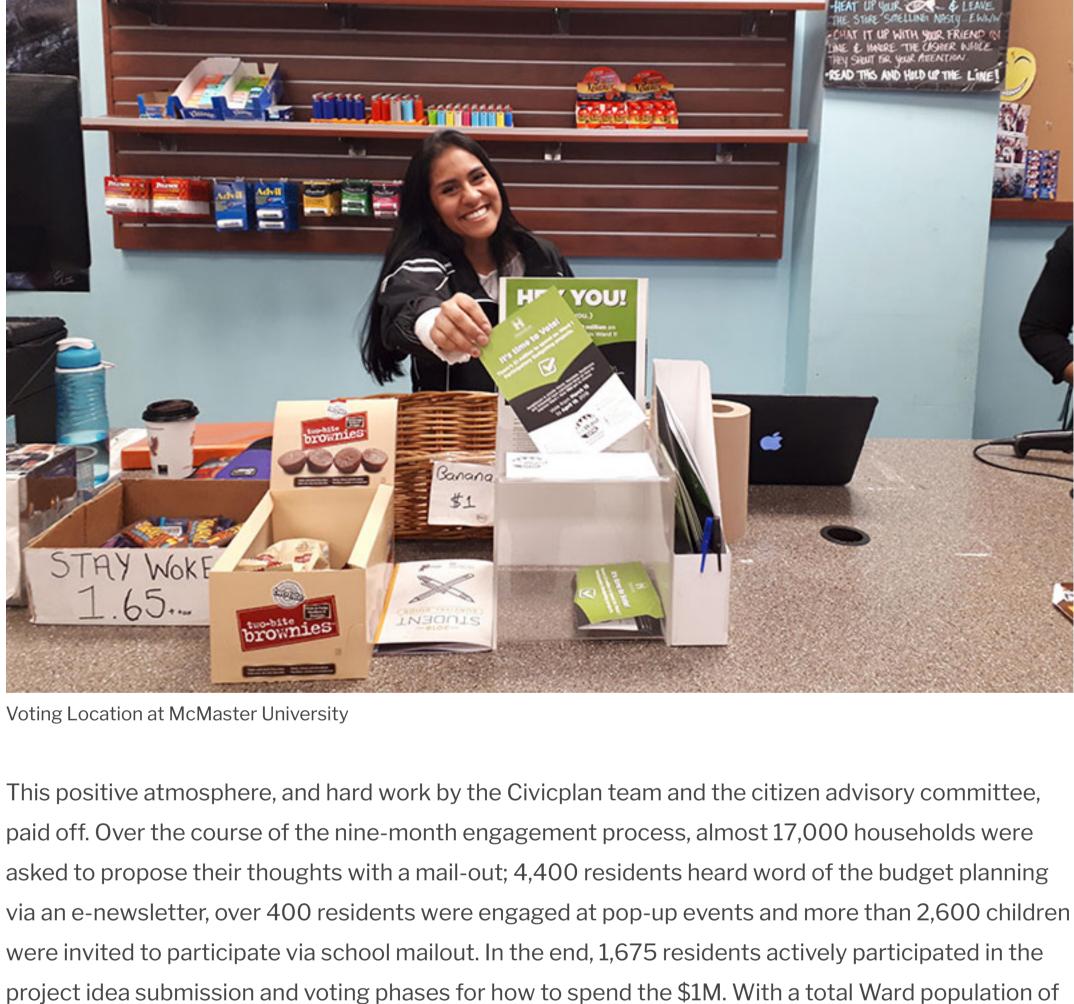
expectations of Ward One's local residents.

engage citizens over a nine-month period, making sure the



(Yes, you.) There's \$1 million to spend on Ward 1 Participatory Budgeting projects. Have an idea? Vote for ideas! Submit your idea!





the core of why you get into planning in the first place," he says. "I wanted to contribute to helping people effectively shape their spaces around them. There are innovative and creative alternatives to the status quo of planning and engagement and these alternatives can more effectively help people shape their communities." A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

The Civicplan team's participatory planning approach, customized for the needs of the Ward and its

citizens, also happened to win a reputable award, another - very literal - win for Macdonald and Shaker.

They were honoured with a 2018 International Association for Public Participation, IAP2 Canada Core

Values Award - specifically for Extending the Practice through Creativity, Contribution and Innovation

organization is interesting," she says, "because it is about core values around engagement in similar

brings the award win back to his professional values as a Registered Professional Planner. "It gets to

ways that we already do it, but [to be recognized for your work] that is pushing boundaries on how

things are traditionally done feels good. I think we'd love to see this [process] replicated." Shaker

in the field. It underscores Macdonald's passion for public engagement work. "The IAP2 as an

next couple of years, thanks to the projects suggested by its community stakeholders during Civicplan's process. They are to be rolled out within the next year and include improvements such as park and trail upgrades, cycling improvements and the development of a community hub in an underserved neighbourhood, that the residents expressed a need for and can now own as their projects, as a part of a space they shaped. Macdonald and Shaker ponder the future of the Ward, and the infrastructure of the City of Hamilton as a whole. Where will it be in ten, fifteen, twenty-five years? How will major issues facing all of Ontario, like climate change or uneven growth affect this diverse city? And how will planners adapt to meet the challenges? It's a combination of uneven growth thanks to urban economics, and climate change that Shaker hones in on. "[We need] better planning practices from a sustainable perspective, and that's going to be an ongoing thing that I don't think we tackle well enough, and I think it's only compounded when you have uneven growth. There's still a lot of economic transition that's going to happen and it will

affect how cities are planned, moving forward, in Ontario." But he trusts that continued participatory

planning processes will keep citizens engaged as guides or stewards for their own communities as

they tackle these meta issues head on. "There's collective wisdom in the population. We're able to

it becomes a push, a pressure on those decision makers but with the positive approach of multiple

report on that and [with data] we're able to show decision makers the evidence of what people want -

Interested in supporting communities as they effectively shape the world around them? Become a planner! BECOME AN RPP →

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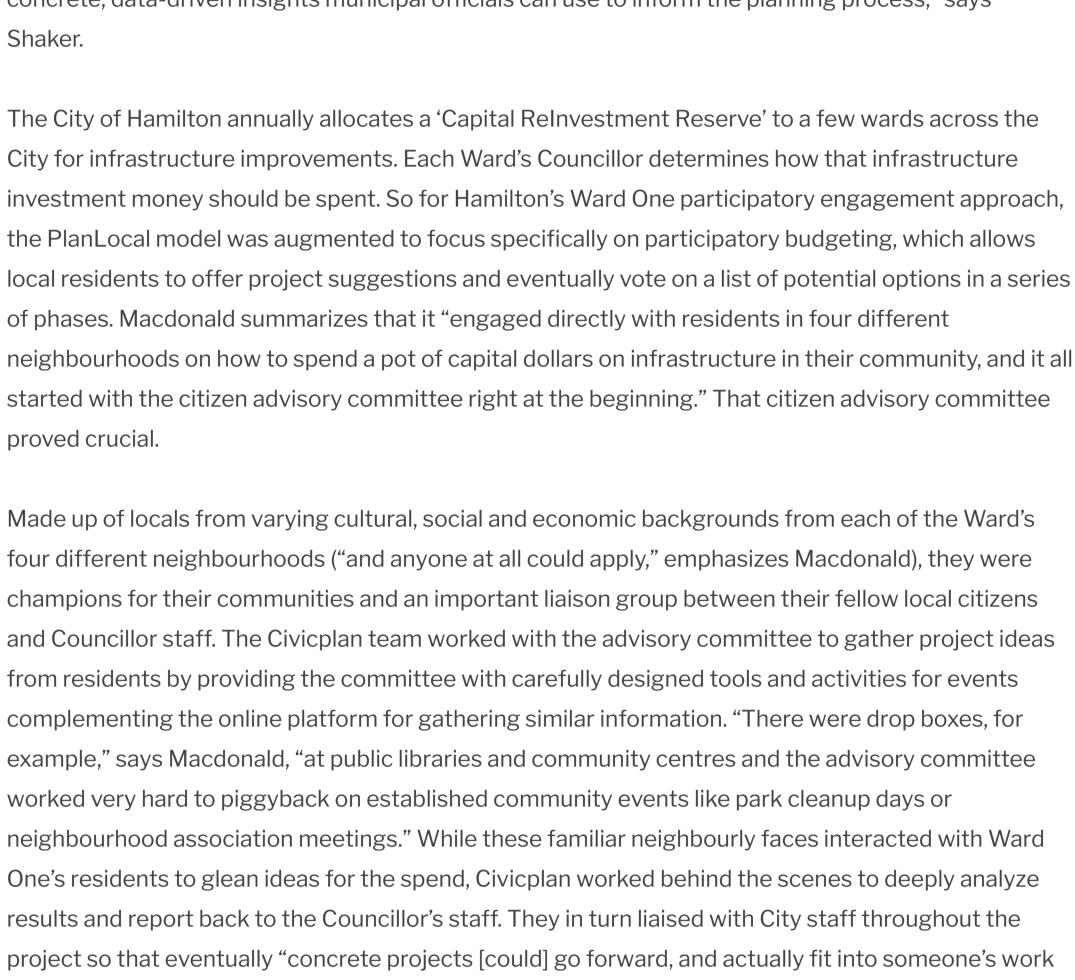
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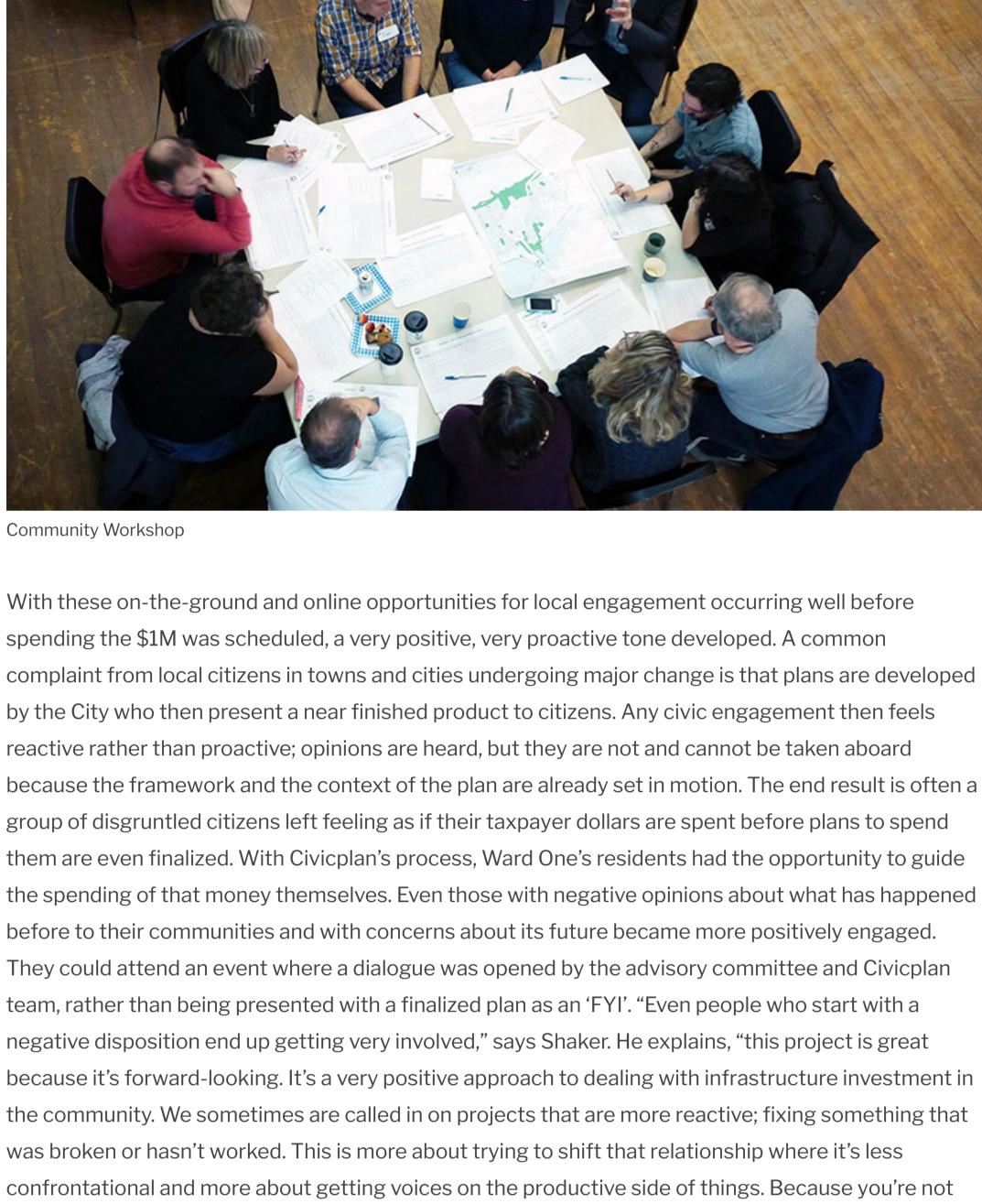
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plan," says Macdonald. This chain of communication and cycle of activity was orchestrated and

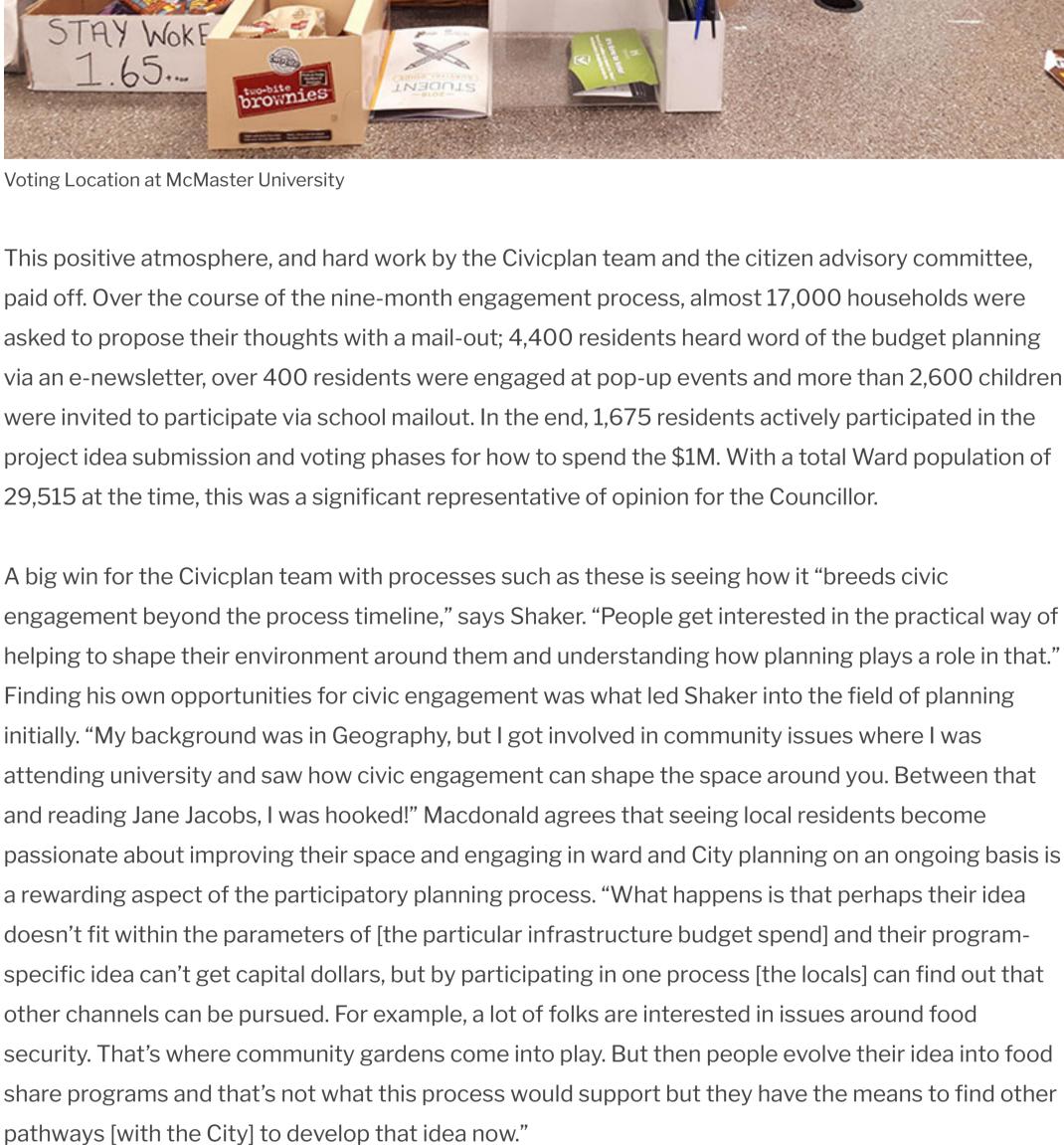
monitored carefully by Civicplan.

Poster Promoting the Process



just asking people to highlight a problem inherently, you're asking them to propose solutions. It may

not end up being a solvable problem for a reason, but [we've explored] all possible solutions."



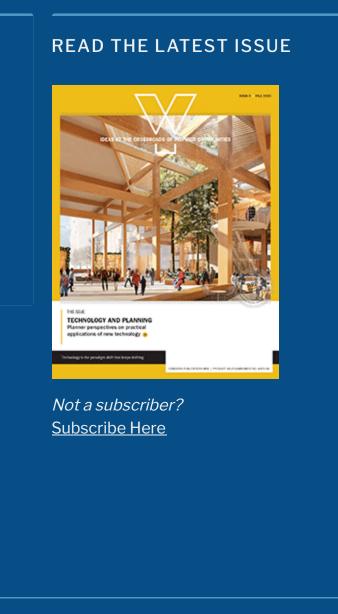
IAP2 Member Michelle Dwyer (centre) presents award to Sonja Macdonald and Paul Shaker of Civicplan. While musing further about the core values of planning, about the responsibilities of being an RPP, Paul offers some advice to potential planning students or those on the brink of becoming certified planners. "Get involved with a neighbourhood plan, or neighbourhood association," he presses. "Understanding the point of view of locals is essential to being an effective planner. It educates you on where the gaps are from a citizen's perspective and gives you a clear idea of how politics affect planning. Marry that with a more academic learning of the discipline for success to apply your expertise as a planner to help solve problems." For Ward One, it looks as though many of its infrastructure problems will indeed be solved over the

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QUICKLINKS

2020 Conference



voices who want to make their community better."



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