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VIRGINIA BEACH

Council approves baseball players' plan

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The City Council approved a plan Tuesday to build an indoor athletic facility pitched by current and former professional baseball players from South Hampton Roads.

The development company 7 Cities, whose partners include Michael Cuddyer of the Minnesota Twins and brothers B.J. Upton of the Tampa Bay Rays and Justin Upton of the Arizona Diamondbacks, wants to build a sports training and therapy center for amateur athletes off Dam Neck Road, next to the Sportsplex.

The company hopes to have the facility complete by the fall of 2009, said Tim Hummel, a former Cincinnati Reds infielder who played at Old Dominion University.

The Virginia Beach Development Authority has agreed to sell 7 acres for \$875,000 to the group and gave it an option to buy an additional 3 acres of adjacent land. The deal is contingent on 7 Cities getting its site plan approved by the planning department.