

Posted on Wed, November 24, 2010, *Schuylkill River Parks Alliance*

## **The Proposed Schuylkill Duck Pond**

Yesterday, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted on by the City of Philadelphia for an "Amphibious Vehicle Tours" in the Lower Schuylkill. This RFP requires that any company that wants to operate an amphibious vehicle tour must submit a detailed proposal by December 17, 2010.

The RFP is 48 pages long and if you are interested in the details! This is a thumbnail sketch of its contents:

- \* It is limited to the Lower Schuylkill River (below the Fairmount Dam).
- \* The purpose of the RFP is to "generate revenue to reinvest in the Schuylkill Banks Park."
- \* The entry point can be on the east or west side of the River.
- \* Potential respondents are encouraged to present their "ideas about a route to access the Schuylkill River...to community groups."
- \* The winning bidder will sign a contract for a 5 year concession, which will require City Council approval.
- \* Each respondent will propose how they will access (through City Streets) and enter (via a ramp) the River.
- \* Respondents can't use a Park entrance that is currently used by pedestrians.
- \* As soon as the concessionaire cross into City-owned land, it shall minimize noise from engines, not use any loudspeaker or bullhorn, not honk horns and prohibit its patrons from using noise-makers.
- \* Concessionaire must:
  - obtain all approvals as required by applicable laws.
  - must absorb all construction costs of an entry point.
  - shall not operate when the City has closed a street or road for public events, special events or emergencies, which the concessionaire has permission to use to access the River.
  - shall not operate during inclement weather.
- \* The license to operate will require the concessionaire to pay \$50,000 plus a percentage of their gross revenue.

The Managing Director's Office is taking questions about the RFP via email only. You can send them to the address on the cover page of the RFP until December 6th at 5pm.

Here's what the Schuylkill River Park Alliance has thus done far on this issue:

- \* We compiled the comments received from our November 3rd email into one document.
- \* We provided those comments to Brian Abernathy (Chief of Staff to the Managing Director), Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mike DiBerardinis and Mark Focht, Executive Director of the Fairmount Park System.

**\* We have asked that a public meeting be held prior to the RFP deadline so that the community can hear directly from potential respondents about their plans and are working to get that meeting organized.**