

# Meeting in Silverhill to focus on new location for Little Hall



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SILVERHILL, Alabama --- The Little Bohemian Hall will once again be the topic of discussion at a public hearing set for 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13 at Silverhill Town Hall.

Chief among the topics of discussion at Monday's meeting will be choosing a new location for the building after Save the Little Hall Committee Members decided not to move the building to Paul Anderson Park.

"When we first decided on that location, we were looking at putting the building all the way to the back of the property and using part of the street for parking," said Committee Chairman Frankie Kucera. "But we were told that they didn't want the street blocked off, so we decided to move the building up."

Kucera said assuming the property required 35-foot setbacks, the building fit within the location, but after being told the property required a 50-foot setback, it was discovered that it would not fit.

"We looked at turning the building around, but it just wasn't going to look right, so we decided to abandon the idea of putting the building there," Kucera said, "but we haven't given up on this project. It will go somewhere."

It has been nearly a year since the more than 90-year-old structure was shifted off its foundation and sustained extensive damage during a tornado that struck in Silverhill and nearly seven months since the Silverhill Town Council voted to proceed with plans to build a new structure.

In November, the Council voted to support moving the building to Paul Anderson Park and pay half, up to \$4,000, to right the building and prepare for moving. Two weeks later, the council voted to establish a Save the Little Hall Board, which holds public meetings monthly at Town Hall.

At the Council's last meeting in January, Silverhill Planning Commission Chairman Stan Joy and other members of the Planning Commission presented a letter to the council asking them to rescind the motion supporting the move to Anderson Park and revisit proper procedure in moving the structure.

Joy said at the Commission's January meeting, concerns were expressed over moving the structure to that location, including that the building would not meet the town's setback requirements and that moving the building to the park would violate a condition that no permanent structure be placed at the park.

"I have nothing against having a public hearing," said Council member Jared Lyles at Monday's meeting. "My problem is with people who say we're trying to push this through under the table without any public input. There has been ample opportunity for people to express opposition in this matter."

When asked by Council member Wayne Gruenloh at Monday's meeting if he had received a lot of complaints on the issue, Mayor Tim Wilson indicated he had received more than a dozen calls on the matter.

"The purpose of this meeting is to give everyone a chance to speak on the matter," Wilson said. "After this they can't say they didn't know about it and if they do, we have something to show that there was an opportunity for everyone to speak."

Several options for moving the structure were indicated at Monday's meeting. In a phone interview on Tuesday, Kucera said that would ultimately be the council's decision.

"We as a Committee don't have the authority to purchase property or secure the donation of property," he said. "That will be up to the council. The building is up and ready to move, we just need a place to move it to."